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10 COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION LISTENING SESSION

11

12 Taken August 28, 2006

13 Commencing at 10:00 a.m.

14 Volume I - Pages 1 - 127, inclusive

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16 Taken at
17 Carlson Center
18 2010 2nd Avenue
19 Fairbanks, Alaska
20
21

22 Reported by:
23 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR
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1 A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S

2 David J. Case
3 Moderator

4

5 Dirk Kempthorne
6 Secretary
7 U.S. Department of the Interior

8

9 Dale Hall
10 Director
11 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

12

13 Ron Kreizenbeck
14 Acting Regional Administrator
15 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

16

17 Tim Keeney
18 Deputy Assistant Secretary
19 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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21

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23 Julie Kitka
24 Alaska Federation of Natives
25 Taken by:

26

27 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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29 BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were

16 taken at the time and place duly noted on the title
17 page, before Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit
18 Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State
19 of Alaska.

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MR. CASE: Okay. Welcome. Good
3 morning. My name is Dave Case. And I'd like to
4 welcome you to the eighth of 24 listening sessions
5 being held across the country. I'll be the
6 moderator today.

7 As you can see, we have some -- well, the room
8 is full of important guests, and particularly the
9 folks that you see in front of you right now. They
10 are the sixth grade class from Anne Wien Elementary.
11 They are working on a project that's referred to
12 very appropriately as the Common Ground Education
13 Project. They are promoting outdoor and place-based
14 conservation education on the Chena River area and
15 throughout Fairbanks. They have developed a walking
16 trail, trailside kiosk on the Chena River at Noyes
17 Slough. So it's a pleasure to have them here at
18 each of the meetings. It seems appropriate when we
19 talk about cooperative conservation to have people
20 that represent the future of conservation, and this
21 group sure does that. So we are glad to have you
22 here.

23 I'd also like to welcome the many elders and
24 others from across Alaska who have joined us here.
25 We don't have the time to introduce everyone, but we

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1 encourage everyone to take the chance to come to the
2 microphone and present comments.

3 It's my pleasure next to introduce Julie
4 Rafferty. Julie is a University of Alaska Fairbanks
5 graduate and a long time resident of Fairbanks.
6 She's a jazz singer, has even recorded a CD, and
7 she's going to sing our national anthem.

8 MS. RAFFERTY: Thank you, Dave. I'd
9 invite all of you to sing along with me, if you
10 would like. I'll try to pitch it low.

11 (National anthem sung.)

12 MR. CASE: Thank you, Julie. Next to
13 give invocation, I'd like to invite Poldine Carlo to
14 give the invocation. She's a respected Koyukon
15 Athabaskan originally from Nulato.

16 MS. CARLO: Good morning. Welcome to
17 Fairbanks.

18 (Prayer offered in native dialect.)

19 MR. CASE: Thank you. Okay. And
20 I'll thank again the sixth grade class, and you can

21 find your seats for a civics lesson.
22 Thanks again for being here. Next I'd like to
23 introduce the people up at the podium on my right.
24 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior,
25 Secretary Dirk Kempthorne. Director of the U.S.

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1 Fish & Wildlife Service, Dale Hall. Deputy
2 Assistant Secretary of NOAA, Tim Keeney. Acting
3 Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental
4 Protection Agency, Ron Kreizenbeck.
5 Mary Vavrik is our court reporter today. She
6 will be recording and taking down everything we say
7 here so that there will be a record. We will be
8 producing meeting summaries of each of these
9 meetings. So we do ask when you come up to the
10 podium that you speak into the microphone so she can
11 be sure to hear you and capture everything.

12 Also our sign interpreters, I think that's
13 Lizanne that's signing right now, and L'Rona is
14 sitting down and will be taking over when Lizanne
15 gets worn out and vice versa.

16 I'd like to start by just giving you a brief
17 overview of what we are going to do. We will have a
18 few more introductions and then have a few comments
19 from the podium and then quickly move into the main
20 reason that we're here, which is to listen to your
21 comments about cooperative conservation. The
22 process is designed to try and hear from as many
23 people as we possibly can in a way that's fair to
24 everyone and gives everyone a chance to speak. We
25 would ask that if you have cell phones, that if you

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1 could turn those off, we would appreciate it so they
2 don't go off in the middle of somebody's speaking.

3 As you came in, you should have gotten a card
4 that has a number on it. What we are going to do
5 after a couple of introductory presentations is move
6 right into the speakers. And I'll just ask if you
7 would like, if you have got card No. 1, ask you to
8 come forward to this microphone.

9 If you don't want to make spoken comments
10 today, there's a number of other ways that you can
11 provide comments, and we'd sure encourage you to do
12 that. On that card there is a website address that
13 you can go to and submit comments electronically.
14 There's also a mailing address or a fax address on
15 there -- or a fax number on there. When you come up
16 to the microphone, if you could, state your name,
17 spell your last name for us so we get that correct
18 in the record, where you are from, and if you
19 represent an organization, what that organization --
20 what that organization is.

21 As I mentioned, Mary is going to capture all of
22 the proceedings; however, there is no more
23 importance attached to spoken words here today than
24 there is from something that you might submit
25 electronically.

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1 We are going to limit the time that you have to
2 about two and a half minutes. I'll let you know
3 when your two and a half minutes is up, and I'll
4 show you a card from the -- and just to let you know
5 that the two and a half minutes is up, and you will
6 have about 30 more seconds, then, to finish up. We
7 know that's not much time, and I apologize in
8 advance. I was always taught that it was rude to
9 interrupt people. Little did I know it was my job
10 to interrupt people. And I apologize in advance,
11 but we want to try and make sure that while you have
12 folks like these here, which is not often you get to
13 come before a group like this, that we give everyone
14 a chance today to say their words.

15 Before -- not before. Now. It's my great
16 pleasure to welcome Secretary of the Interior Dirk
17 Kempthorne to the podium.

18 MR. KEMPTHORNE: Dave, thank you very
19 much. This is -- this is very special to be in
20 Alaska, and I will tell you that this is the first
21 time really that I've had any extended time to be in
22 this magnificent state. And just a few moments ago
23 you saw I was able to shake hands with these
24 wonderful sixth graders to see them with the sparkle
25 in their eye and to say welcome to Alaska or that we

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1 are glad that you are here. They really, I think,
2 personify what I've experienced in Alaska thus far:
3 Wonderful hospitality, a rugged individualist
4 nature.

5 Flying in from Seattle to Fairbanks, it was
6 interesting how many young people were on the
7 flight: Smoke jumpers, fire hot shot, military,
8 some good kids from Idaho, my state, who are coming
9 up here to your university. And it's just -- there
10 is a vibrancy here, combined with the magnificent
11 outdoors that all of you can -- are rightfully proud
12 of. And I tell you that I take with me a very
13 positive impression of Fairbanks.

14 And we'll be continuing our travel through
15 Alaska because it's -- it's interesting, with the
16 Department of the Interior, in all of our
17 responsibilities. Before I became the Secretary of
18 Interior, I was governor of Idaho up until about
19 four months ago. As Secretary of Interior, I now
20 have more jurisdiction in the state of Idaho than I
21 did as governor, and we have tremendous
22 responsibility here in this great State of Alaska.

23 And I have to acknowledge, too, the Griffin
24 family that's here, that, Colonel, you are serving
25 this country and you brought the beautiful family

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1 with you that will now be in Alaska for a while, but
2 remember that Idaho is your center of the universe.
3 So please come back.

4 Let me also just say that I bring you -- and I

5 think it's appropriate to tell you I bring you
6 greetings from the President. This cooperative
7 conservation hearing session is something that we
8 had discussions about in the White House. And the
9 President was adamant. He said, I want you to go
10 out and I would like you to listen to what Americans
11 have to say. And he was very energized by this.

12 I think at the end of this process -- as Dave
13 pointed out, we will have 24 of these. We will have
14 hundreds, if not thousands of comments from American
15 citizens about your thoughts. And this is a
16 cooperative effort by the Department of the Interior
17 and Agriculture, by the Department of Commerce, by
18 the Environmental Protection Agency and the Council
19 on Environmental Quality. So to have Tim and Ron
20 here with us today and Dale from the Fish & Wildlife
21 Service, and then we have a number of other folks
22 that are here that are regional directors and do so
23 much on behalf of our fellow citizens.

24 Just before this listening session, I had a
25 wonderful productive meeting with the Alaska

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1 Federation of Natives. You have a great leader in
2 Julie Kitka. My Interior Department is proud to
3 partner with Alaska Natives from all over the state,
4 through our parks, refuges, BLM lands, in your quest
5 to improve your lives through economic development.

6 We have many challenges at the Department of
7 the Interior. We manage one out of five acres in
8 the United States of America. We manage one-fifth
9 of the land in the United States. The land and
10 waters we manage produce one-third of our domestic
11 energy. We provide water to 31,000,000 Americans.
12 We manage relations with 561 Indian tribes, help
13 protect citizens from forest fires and natural
14 hazards, and serve some 470,000,000 visitors at
15 national parks, wildlife refuges and other public
16 lands.

17 Fortunately, we have many partners at the state
18 and local level who care deeply about the
19 environment and the land on which we live and that
20 we enjoy. Without the help of these citizen
21 stewards, we could not possibly achieve our
22 conservation goals. I don't believe, nor does the
23 President believe that Washington, D.C. has all the
24 answers. We believe that people living in Fairbanks
25 and other communities across Alaska and America can

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1 provide valuable insight to problems and often can
2 solve problems more quickly than the federal
3 government. You are proving this right here in
4 Alaska with your collaborative efforts on
5 subsistence and offshore oil and gas activities.

6 For example, with technical assistance from the
7 Fish & Wildlife Service, the Native Village of Fort
8 Yukon is removing a major fish passing barrier and

9 replacing it with a structure that does not block
10 passage of whitefish and chum salmon. Twenty miles
11 of spawning and rearing habitat will be protected.

12 The Cook Inlet Tribal Council is collaborating
13 with local landowners to protect wetland habitats on
14 the lower Kenai Peninsula. And the North Slope
15 Borough is working with the local utilities
16 cooperative to restore and enhance habitats near
17 Barrow to reduce mortality and increase nesting
18 success of threatened and at-risk birds.

19 President Bush understands the importance of
20 working closely with local partners. He said in a
21 quote, we believe cooperative conservation is the
22 best way to protect the environment. This means we
23 must focus on the needs of states and respect the
24 unique knowledge of local authorities and welcome
25 the help of private groups and volunteers. The

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1 President also said through cooperative conservation
2 we are moving away from the old environmental
3 debates that pit one group against another and
4 towards a system that brings citizens of every level
5 of government together to get results.

6 Last year he held the first ever White House
7 conference on cooperative conservation. More than
8 1,300 individuals representing hundreds of
9 organizations met in St. Louis and provided
10 illustrations of cooperative conservation projects
11 across the nation. Participants discussed how the
12 nation might strengthen partnerships, dialogue, and
13 collaboration to achieve environmental goals. These
14 partnerships among landowners, communities, the
15 private sector, tribes, counties, and states holds
16 the nation's greatest promise for achieving
17 environmental goals, reducing conflict, and
18 leveraging conservation resources.

19 During next two months, we will build the
20 momentum of last year's conference and work to
21 strengthen these alliances. We will hold 24
22 sessions across the industry to give citizens an
23 opportunity to talk about cooperative conservation.
24 Citizen stewards will be able to tell us what works
25 and also, significantly, what doesn't work.

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1 The meetings will focus on issues and programs
2 and policies mentioned frequently at the conference.
3 Topics such as how can the federal government
4 enhance wildlife habitat, species protection, and
5 other conservation outcomes through regulatory and
6 voluntary conservation programs. How can the
7 federal government enhance cooperation among federal
8 agencies with states and tribes and local
9 communities and the application of environmental
10 protection and conservation laws? How can the
11 federal government work with states and tribes and
12 other public and private sector partners to improve
13 science used in environmental protection and

14 conservation? How can the federal government work
15 cooperatively with businesses and landowners to
16 protect the environment and promote conservation?

17 We look forward to hearing your thoughts and
18 ideas. How can the federal government better
19 respect the interest of people with ownership in
20 land and water and other natural resources? We want
21 to hear from all of you and others across the
22 nation. Hearing from you will tell us whether the
23 Fish & Wildlife Service landowner incentive program
24 is as effective as possible in conserving wildlife
25 habitat on private lands. Hearing from you will

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1 tell us whether the Endangered Species Act is an
2 effective -- is as effective as it can be. Do we
3 have enough emphasis on recovery, or are we simply
4 intent upon listing a species and moving on.
5 Hearing from you will tell us whether we can restore
6 even more wildlife habitat than we have for the
7 partners for Fish & Wildlife program.

8 I will tell you that during the next week I'll
9 travel throughout Alaska. I will listen to Alaskans
10 and their different backgrounds. They will talk
11 about their businesses. They will talk about
12 education. They will talk about hunting, fishing.
13 They will talk about their hopes and their desires.
14 And they will probably express their pride in
15 Alaska. And they'll talk about some of the
16 challenges of the issues that we all face together.
17 But you are giving us an opportunity where we are
18 going to have good insight.

19 I have been very impressed with these listening
20 sessions because, when you think about this, whether
21 this is Columbus, Ohio or Spokane, Washington, or
22 Colton, California, wherever we hold these listening
23 sessions, good citizens like you have turned out,
24 will give us comments either through the spoken word
25 or the written word or submit it to us

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1 electronically at a later date. But this is how the
2 process is supposed to work.

3 So I thank you for your participation, your
4 hospitality, and I look forward to your comments.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. CASE: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.
7 Next I'd like to introduce Deputy Assistant
8 Secretary of NOAA, Tim Keeney.

9 MR. KEENEY: Thank you, Dave. It's a
10 great pleasure to be here and certainly to follow
11 Secretary Kempthorne's remarks. I, too, flew in
12 here recently. I flew actually from Connecticut
13 yesterday, 12 hours by air. And I work in
14 Washington, D.C., but my family lives in
15 Connecticut, so I commute back to Connecticut every
16 weekend, so coming out here really wasn't that much
17 farther.

18 Actually, on my plane we had a bunch of airline

19 pilots. I couldn't figure out who these guys were.
20 They were all talking to each other and getting up
21 and chit-chatting. We had a six and a half hour
22 flight from Chicago to Anchorage. When we got
23 there, I finally figured out what they really were.

24 But people are really excited to get out here
25 to Alaska. I've been lucky enough to have been

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1 coming to Alaska now for over 20 years through my
2 job at NOAA. And it is truly an exciting place to
3 be, a land of great wealth, great resources, and
4 also a land that is experiencing climate change.

5 So first of all, I'd like to thank you for
6 taking the time to listen -- to come to this
7 listening session and particularly encourage you to
8 get up and make some comments because that is
9 particularly important for us to hear from you
10 what's important, what you think we need to know and
11 better understand.

12 And I'm happy to be here in Fairbanks escaping
13 the heat of Washington, D.C. I'm a jogger, too, and
14 jogging in Washington D.C. is not a whole lot of fun
15 in the summertime. It's 90 degrees out, the
16 humidity is 80 percent and you start sweating even
17 before you start to run. So getting up this morning
18 and going out and running in 50, 55 or so degree
19 weather was really a treat, so thanks for having me
20 up here.

21 NOAA has many programs in Alaska, including
22 oceanographic climate research, fisheries
23 management, hydrographic surveying, and our
24 coordination with University of Alaska and the sea
25 grant program. Cooperative conservation draws on

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1 the resources of federal, state, and local
2 partnerships to improve environmental protection and
3 natural resource management and to achieve the goals
4 of shared governance and citizen stewardship.

5 NOAA has a long history of cooperative
6 conservation, from improving habitat and rebuilding
7 fisheries stocks to helping mitigate the effects of
8 drought and reduce the damage from natural
9 disasters. We've been particularly busy this most
10 recent season with hurricanes. I think we've got
11 one right now in the Gulf of Mexico we are following
12 pretty closely.

13 NOAA has also relied on partnerships to help
14 achieve its mission. Just recently the National
15 Marine Fisheries Service formally established the
16 Aleutian Island habitat conservation area here in
17 Alaska, which covers 279,000 square nautical miles.
18 Ladies and gentlemen, that's bigger than the state
19 of Texas and California put together. This was a
20 conservation zone primarily put together because of
21 the important habitat on the bottom of this area,
22 which encompasses quite a bit of cold water coral or
23 deep water corals, which are important to the

24 rearing of fish. So this is a protected area from
25 dragging over those corals and destroying corals

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1 that sometimes take hundreds, if not thousands, of
2 years to grow.

3 This was only possible with the coordinated
4 efforts of the state and North Pacific Fisheries
5 Management Council, as well as coral researchers at
6 the University of Alaska, fishermen, conservation
7 organizations like Oceania, and this unprecedented
8 conservation effort has highlighted deep water coral
9 conservation throughout the world. In fact, with
10 Alaska's leadership, they have spawned similar
11 measures now off the coast of California,
12 Washington, and Oregon most recently.

13 Agencies working together is another key
14 element I wanted to mention and, of course, the
15 Department of Interior and NOAA need to work better
16 together, as well. Just last week I signed with
17 Kameron Onley, my counterpart in Interior, an
18 inter-agency agreement which builds on a seamless
19 network and tries to encourage, again, cooperative
20 conservation, people working better together, better
21 understanding for his points of view, getting input
22 from all different aspects, closer cooperation, less
23 jurisdictional line drawing, and less administrative
24 and financial barriers.

25 The best example I can give you of this is the
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1 Northwest Hawaiian Islands Monument which President
2 Bush declared just last month which sets aside an
3 incredibly huge area for conservation, 800 miles
4 long, 100 miles wide in the northwest Hawaiian
5 Islands. What's interesting here is it requires the
6 refuge program at Interior, National Parks,
7 representatives at Interior, National Marines
8 Fisheries Service at NOAA, and our National Marine
9 Sanctuary Program to work together to come up with
10 regulations that apply to everyone.

11 And of course, you, being the public out there,
12 look at the federal government as just one entity.
13 Of course, we are many different organizations that
14 all need to work better together. The example here
15 is just last week we worked out some regulations
16 that allow for -- even though this is an area that
17 doesn't allow for commercial fishing, it will allow
18 fishermen to have fishing gear on their decks, and
19 it will also allow fishermen to anchor their boats
20 at night because boats that are in this area are
21 sometimes seven, eight, nine days away from home.
22 You have to be able to anchor at night. You can't
23 go ashore. And you also need to have fishing gear
24 on board because they can fish in other areas
25 outside of this particular area.

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1 So it allowed us to sort of loosen our
2 regulations and come up with a system that worked,

3 common sense measures that everyone understands. So
4 NOAA is proud of our work here in Alaska, but like
5 other organizations, we're always looking for ways
6 to improve. And through this cooperative
7 conservation effort, I'm sure we'll be able to find
8 ways to improve and expand our services here in this
9 area.

10 Thanks very much for having me. I look forward
11 to your comments.

12 MR. CASE: Thank you, Mr. Keeney. At
13 each one of these sessions we invite someone to give
14 a presentation that captures the spirit of
15 cooperative conservation, a local project. And
16 today we are fortunate to have the President of the
17 Alaska Federation of Natives, Julie Kitka, to make a
18 presentation. Julie.

19 MS. KITKA: Thank you. Good morning.
20 Can you hear me? Great. First of all, I would like
21 to express appreciation on behalf of our board of
22 directors and our membership for the opportunity to
23 participate and share some thoughts.

24 In 2005 Thomas Friedman wrote a book called The
25 World is Flat, a Brief History of the 21st Century.

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1 Many of you may have read that recent best seller.
2 And while you may agree or disagree with the author,
3 he does make some interesting points.

4 I'll quote: "Reflecting on this past decade
5 and a half during which the world went flat, it
6 strikes me that our lives have been powerfully
7 shaped by two dates: 11/9 and 9/11. These two
8 dates represent the two competing forms of
9 imagination at work in the world today: The
10 creative imagination of 11/9 and the destructive
11 imagination of 9/11. One brought down the Berlin
12 Wall and opened the windows of the world, both the
13 operating system and the kind we look through. It
14 unlocked half the planet and made its citizens there
15 our potential partners and competitors.

16 "Another brought down the World Trade Center,
17 closing its Windows on the World Restaurant forever
18 and putting up new, invisible concrete walls among
19 people at a time when we thought 11/9 had eased them
20 for good.

21 "The dismantling of the Berlin Wall on 11/9 was
22 brought about by people who dared to imagine a
23 different, more open world, one where every human
24 being would be free to realize his or her full
25 potential and who then summoned the courage to act

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1 on that imagination."

2 Further, he goes on. There has never been a
3 time in history where the character of human
4 imagination wasn't important. It's never been more
5 important than now because in a flat world, so many
6 of the inputs and tools of collaboration are
7 becoming commodities available to everyone. They

8 are all out there for anyone to grasp. There is one
9 thing, though, that can never be and has never been
10 commoditized, and that is imagination.

11 Imagination is not about reruns. It has to be
12 about writing our own new scripts, looking forward,
13 not back. Today I want you to imagine a future,
14 building on all the good efforts that have gone on
15 which are the subject of this listening conference.
16 I want you to imagine all of us taking a gigantic
17 leap forward and figuring out how we can encourage
18 ourselves and all those we work and live with to
19 form productive outcomes that advance and unite
20 civilization, using all our skills and imagination.
21 That is the essence, in my view, why cooperative
22 conservation is so vital. We are building for the
23 future.

24 So with that, let me begin. The Alaska
25 Federation of Natives was organized in response to

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1 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act claims issue
2 that emerged after statehood in 1959. The state was
3 poised to select 100,000,000 acres of land. Much of
4 Alaska's more than 365,000,000 acres was then
5 occupied and used by Alaska Natives and had been for
6 thousands of years. Early leaders knew if we did
7 not fight to retain aboriginal lands, we would be in
8 danger of losing our homelands forever.

9 On December 18, 1971, the Alaska Native Claims
10 Settlement Act was signed into law by President
11 Nixon to settle our longstanding claims. For
12 extinguishing aboriginal title, Alaska Natives were
13 compensated with fee simple title to 44,000,000
14 acres of land and nearly one billion in cash for
15 lands lost to the state, federal, and private
16 interests. The Act created 13 for-profit regional
17 corporations and more than 200 village corporations
18 to receive and oversee the land and money
19 entitlements.

20 We as Alaska Natives have now had over 34 years
21 immersed in capitalism and modifying and using the
22 corporate structure. We have learned a lot during
23 this period of time and continue to build our
24 capacity. Because of our land claims, we have a
25 stake in our future which is unshakable.

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1 Alaska Natives currently comprise approximately
2 21 percent of the state's total population. Only
3 four other states in the nation -- Oklahoma, New
4 Mexico, South Dakota, and Montana -- have Native
5 American populations greater than seven percent of
6 the total state population. Thousands of Alaska
7 Natives still live off the land, taking 90 percent
8 or more of what they eat every year from the land
9 and sea. Our people are among the last remaining
10 Native Americans still living on their ancestral
11 lands. In fact, if you could imagine some of our
12 communities having continuous occupancy since before

13 the pyramids were built, you would understand how
14 long people have been where they are at.

15 In terms of land ownership, together the state
16 and federal government control more than 85 percent
17 of the land in the state, while Alaska Natives
18 retain about 12 percent, making us the largest group
19 of private landowners in the state. Much of our
20 land is surrounded by and adjacent to federal lands.

21 Let me talk about co-management. Because of
22 our ties to the land and the critical importance of
23 subsistence to our long-term survival, we have been
24 particularly active over the last several decades in
25 pursuing a meaningful role in the management and

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1 conservation of our fish and wildlife resources
2 through partnerships with the federal and state
3 governments.

4 Here are four examples. We are actively and
5 successfully co-managing the subsistence use and
6 conservation of marine mammals. Two, through
7 international treaties signed by the United States,
8 we have a role as co-equals with state and federal
9 managers in the subsistence management of migratory
10 birds and polar bears. Three, the Alaska Eskimo
11 Whaling Commission continues to be an essential
12 partner with the federal government and
13 international bodies in the management of bowhead
14 whales. And fourth, the North Pacific Fisheries
15 Management Council enters into agreements with
16 tribal governments for harvest monitoring, local
17 area planning, and other issues affecting the
18 subsistence harvest of halibut in Alaska.

19 These partnerships have created jobs and
20 opportunities in our villages and have provided more
21 appropriate, more efficient, and more equitable
22 management of the resources. The Department of
23 Interior has recognized the importance of
24 co-management in the conservation of marine mammals.
25 It is supported through several Congress amendments

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1 to the Marine Mammal Protection Act that were
2 negotiated by and between NOAA, U.S. Fish & Wildlife
3 Service, the Marine Mammal Commission, and the
4 Native community that would not only increase
5 spending for co-management activities, but would
6 also provide an opportunity for Alaska Native
7 organizations at our own initiative to develop
8 enforceable management plans in cooperation with the
9 appropriate federal managing agent aimed at avoiding
10 depletion of marine mammal stocks. We talked about
11 ANILCA cooperative agreements. Section 809 of Title
12 VIII of ANILCA also authorizes cooperative
13 management among federal agencies, the state, and
14 the Native corporations and other parties to
15 effectuate the purposes and policies of Title VIII.

16 A number of cooperative agreements have been
17 implemented since 1992, notably with AVCP in the

18 Bethel area, Bristol Bay Native Association, the
19 Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments and Tanana
20 Chiefs Conferences. These agreements have primarily
21 involved community harvest data collection and
22 cooperative management planning.

23 Imagine a giant leap forward in co-management.
24 Imagine federal and state policy makers embracing
25 the concept in the context of management of

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1 subsistence uses of most fish and game. Imagine a
2 broadening of co-management in Alaska which would
3 dramatically move hundreds of thousands of dollars
4 and much human energy away from litigation of us
5 suing each other that has plagued the subsistence
6 debate for the past three decades. This is what we
7 believe expansion and broadening of co-management
8 will do.

9 What a national model Alaska could become with
10 broadened co-management offering the best strategy
11 for future management and conservation of Alaska
12 resources and showing the world a way which can be
13 scaled up and replicated.

14 Now let me talk about contracting and
15 compacting. AFN has urged this and previous
16 administrations to expand contracting and compacting
17 of the federal Indian Self-Determination and
18 Education Act, both to increase the efficiency of
19 service delivery and to provide critical economic
20 opportunities for Alaska's Native people.

21 We have proposed legislation which would create
22 an Alaska Federal Lands Management Demonstration
23 Project. This bill is currently House Bill 1810
24 pending in the Congress. And we urge the Department
25 to revisit its position in respect to this

0028

1 legislation and work with us and our congressional
2 delegation to eliminate barriers to more effective
3 partnerships that would expand Native contracting by
4 the federal government in Alaska.

5 On the issue of Native hire, Congress, through
6 Sections 1307 and 1308 of ANILCA, directed the
7 Secretary of Interior to establish programs whereby
8 the federal government would give preference to
9 Native landowners in locating conservation service
10 unit facilities. More than two decades have passed

11 since ANILCA was enacted, and the contracting and
12 Native hire provisions of the Act remain largely
13 unfulfilled by the Department.

14 We urge the Secretary to support legislation
15 that would ensure implementation of Sections 1307
16 and 1308 of ANILCA and promote innovative management
17 strategies designed to lead to greater efficiencies
18 in conservation systems in Alaska, expand Alaska
19 Native contracting opportunities, increase local
20 employment, and further the unique purposes of the
21 conservation system units as they relate to

22 subsistence practices, Alaska Native culture, and
23 the conservation of fish and wildlife habitat and
24 populations.

25 On the issues of endangered species

0029

1 conservation, Alaska's tribes, Native corporations,
2 and nonprofits have undertaken conservation projects
3 on their land for endangered, threatened, and other
4 at-risk species through U.S. Fish & Wildlife's
5 private steward's grant program. I believe the
6 Secretary mentioned one of them with the Cook Inlet
7 Tribal Council, but we have others between the
8 Nature Conservatory -- never can get that right --
9 of Alaska and the Yakutat tribe, among others, in
10 regard to shore birds and stellar sea lions.

11 As among Alaska's largest private landowners,
12 we support the Department's efforts to foster
13 private stewardship through grants to landowners.

14 On the subsistence issue, I'd like to briefly
15 address the issue of subsistence. Today the only
16 significant protection for our way of life is Title
17 VIII of ANILCA, which provides a priority for
18 subsistence uses over competing commercial and sport
19 uses of fish and game to residents of rural Alaska.
20 The federal protections in ANILCA were the
21 fulfillment of promises made by the United States to
22 Alaska Natives during the settlement of our land
23 claims.

24 To give you an idea how important this is to
25 our people, we had a conference a few years ago in

0030

1 which one of our elders said hunger knows no law.
2 And that is how deeply subsistence means to our
3 people. And Title VIII is the only remaining piece
4 of legislation that protects that right.

5 Today we feel powerful forces are at work in
6 Alaska to weaken this law. Aside from litigation
7 challenging the federal regulations implementing the
8 subsistence priority and the state's lawsuit
9 challenging the regulations that extend the federal
10 subsistence program to federally reserved waters of
11 Alaska, the State of Alaska has recently set about
12 to alter the way the Federal Subsistence Board makes
13 its decisions, to substantially undermine the role
14 of the regional advisory councils created under
15 ANILCA, and to advocate for policy changes that will
16 weaken the current level of federal protections.

17 We strongly support the regional advisory
18 councils authorized by Section 809 and urge the
19 Department to do everything they can to strengthen,
20 not weaken, their decision-making authority.

21 I appreciate the opportunity to share some of
22 our thoughts on cooperative management and
23 conservation and some of the ways in which we
24 believe we can create local participation in federal
25 decision making in Alaska.

0031

1 In closing, let me reference Thomas Friedman
2 again. Let us not underestimate our strengths or
3 the innovation that could explode from the flat
4 world when we really do connect all the knowledge
5 centers together. On such a flat earth, the most
6 important attribute you can have is creative
7 imagination, the ability to be the first one on your
8 block to figure out how all these enabling tools can
9 be put together in new and exciting ways.

10 While your lives have been powerfully shaped by
11 9/11, the world needs you to be forever the
12 generation of 11/9, the generation of strategic
13 optimists, the generation of more dreams than
14 memories, the generation that wakes up each morning
15 and not only imagines that things can be better, but
16 also acts on that imagination every day. Let's make
17 that gigantic leap forward today building
18 partnerships for the future.

19 Thank you for listening to me.

20 MR. CASE: Thank you, Ms. Kitka.
21 We're ready to open up the session. I'd like to
22 remind you that as you came in, you should have
23 gotten a card with information on it, including a
24 number. We are going to start with No. 1 in just a
25 moment. I would ask you to please come to the

0032

1 microphone, this microphone over here; state your
2 name; spell your last name, please; where you are
3 from; if you represent an organization, what

4 organization that is.

5 As I mentioned, the court reporter will be
6 capturing all the information and all of the
7 proceedings today. We do have to limit you to two
8 and a half minutes plus the 30 seconds, so about
9 three minutes. Again, our apologies in advance for
10 having to interrupt folks, but it's important to
11 give everyone a chance to say at least something.

12 As you know, my job is to keep everything
13 moving along and on topic. And of course the topic
14 today is cooperative conservation. And you have
15 that -- I believe on the back of the card that you
16 got today, there is information questions to help
17 frame some of the comments.

18 With that before we get to No. 1, I'd like to
19 ask two people to welcome us here. First Jen Yuhas
20 from the Mayor of Fairbanks' office. Jen.

21 MS. YUHAS: Thank you. On behalf of
22 the Mayor of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, who
23 was called away unexpectedly and couldn't be here
24 this morning, it is with enthusiasm that I welcome
25 you to the cooperative conservation listening

0033

1 session.

2 And to the Department, we would like to extend

3 our gratitude for the cooperation that we have

4 enjoyed under the present Administration. That
5 wasn't something we enjoyed under the previous
6 Administration. And extend our confidence that
7 Secretary Kempthorne will be continuing that
8 cooperation.

9 To our audience, I hope that we understand the
10 importance of Secretary Kempthorne traveling to us
11 to hear from us. Your input is vitally important to
12 the decisions that the Secretary and this panel will
13 be making that affect our daily lives, and we do
14 think they're very importantly or very -- you know
15 what I'm trying to say. Welcome.

16 MR. CASE: Thank you. Next, Tim
17 Barry from the governor's office. And I would
18 comment that if you do have written comments, even
19 if you're not using all of them, if you could
20 provide those to the court reporter, that would be
21 great, either when you speak or afterwards so she
22 can use that to make sure she gets everything right.
23 So thanks.

24 MR. BARRY: My name is Tim Barry.
25 I'm special assistant to the Commissioner of the

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1 Alaska Department of Fish & Game. I have comments,
2 substantive comments as well, but you wanted me to
3 use this opportunity to welcome the Secretary and
4 our guests and everyone to this listening session.
5 And the Commissioner of Fish & Game regrets that
6 he's unable to be here, as well, as well is busy in
7 Juneau, but looking forward to a constructive
8 morning of comments.

9 MR. CASE: Thank you. We are going
10 to start with No. 1. If I call your number and you
11 don't want to come up, I'll just -- if you hesitate,
12 I'll skip on past you. No. 1. Please spell your
13 name for us.

14 MS. BERGE: Hi. My name is Anna
15 Berge, B-E-R-G-E. I'm from Fairbanks. I'm
16 representing myself as an individual. And I have to
17 apologize because I didn't realize I was supposed to
18 look at these questions, so my comments are not
19 related to that.

20 I just wanted to share personal experiences
21 that I've had with the refuge. I wish I could talk
22 about the Teshekpuk Lake, and I hope in the future I
23 can. I have been out to the refuge twice now. I've
24 spent one month each time walking from the coastal
25 plain down across the mountains to the boreal

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1 forest. I've seen all of the different habitats.
2 I've seen the refuge for animals.

3 I also wanted to point out that it's not just
4 the refuge for animals, that there are traces of
5 humanity going back thousands of years, from stone
6 circles to modern day Pepsi cans. Humans have been
7 an integral part of it. And I have had very
8 different experiences there. The first year we saw

9 lots of big game animals. This year we concentrated
10 on birds on the tundra and mosquitoes. We have had
11 challenges both times that were created for us by
12 nature in trying get over an unforeseen mountain
13 barrier to dealing with weather problems. These are
14 things that are completely out of our control.

15 And the lessons that I've taken back with me
16 have stayed with me; that there are places where
17 humanity is not number one, where we can't manage
18 everything, where life is bigger than us. And we
19 have to learn to live with that.

20 The amazing thing is that I come back as a
21 better person for having been there and for
22 realizing that there is a place in the world where I
23 can go that's not managed, that's not taken care of,
24 that I have to learn about.

25 And what I want to, I guess, mention is to me

0036

1 the refuge is a refuge for humanity and humans, as
2 well as for animals. And without places like
3 this -- and I don't know of any place that's as
4 special to me, but also where I can spend an
5 extended period of time learning to be humble, and
6 without places like this I think humanity is doomed.

7 I really want to push for the protection of
8 refuges for both animals and humans. Thank you very
9 much.

10 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 2.

11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Hello. My name is
12 Rosemary Athuanguaruk, A-H-T-U-A-N-G-A-R-U-A-K. I'm
13 from Nuiqsut. We are 60 miles out of Prudhoe Bay on
14 the west side. We are 130 miles out of Barrow to
15 the southeast.

16 Our village is becoming surrounded by oil and
17 gas development. It has greatly changed how we
18 interact in our community and in the natural
19 environment around us. Nuiqsut means someplace
20 beautiful on the horizon. It is a rich,
21 biologically nourishing place that has sustained our
22 people for generations. The knowledge that our
23 elders has shared with us as children, we have grown
24 up to live and survive today. However, our survival
25 is at risk with the developments around us. The

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1 industrial developments around us change how we live
2 and subsist in these areas.

3 We are a very strong Inupiat culture, surviving
4 on subsistence and whaling. The lands and waters
5 around us have fed our families. The western
6 lifestyle is very expensive. It's very costly to
7 get those kinds of foods into our area. Without
8 these foods, it changes the health of our people.
9 Industrial activity has caused changes to the health
10 of our people. There are emissions and discharges
11 that are occurring that changes the health of us,
12 the animals, the fish and wildlife that we depend
13 on.

14 We have seen an increase to upper respiratory
15 problems, asthma, dietary disorders, and other
16 illnesses that are coming to our community. There
17 are exemptions that are made to laws that allow
18 emissions to occur at levels that make Nuiqsut have
19 air quality the way it is in Washington, D.C.
20 Before oil and gas development, our area was
21 natural. There was no western technology in this
22 area.

23 We lived off the land with the animals and the
24 foods, and we shared the knowledge to our children.
25 We are very proactive in educating our families into

0038

1 the lifestyle. This is what has sustained us. It
2 has kept us from starvation moons as our elders have
3 seen in the past. This is something that is
4 threatening our lifetime. We have had impacts to
5 whaling activities with seismic activity at Camden
6 Bay. It causes increased strike distances,
7 increased tow times, and conflict with activities in
8 these areas that are harmful to our whaling
9 activities.

10 Whaling is very difficult. It's a very harsh
11 environment. It's very dangerous to be out there.
12 You add activities that cause the whales to become
13 more aggressive with seismic activity, it reacts to
14 the safety of our whalers. We have had impacts to
15 the near shore environment that affect our fish.
16 Causeways and island development for pads and oil
17 and gas development has affected our fishing. The
18 arctic system has been impacted by these things.
19 Pipelines have affected the caribou migration.

20 My son is 22 years old. He was eight years old
21 the last time the big herds have come through our
22 village. They used to come right through the
23 airport. My younger two children have not seen the
24 big herds like my older son has. This causes us to
25 travel farther to hunt. It causes us increased

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1 hunting events and decreased harvest. When we don't
2 have the foods in our ice cellars to pull out during
3 arctic winters, there aren't many resources for us
4 to return to.

5 Working in the industrial environment, very few
6 people have been successful in getting jobs. We
7 were promised 50 jobs with Alpine. We planned for
8 14 acres of development at Alpine. Within five
9 years, we have over 200 acres. We have a runway, we
10 have eight miles of road. We have three boat pads.
11 These are things that we didn't plan for. Industry
12 did not truthfully share what was coming to us.

13 We are very concerned about what has happened
14 to us in our community. What's going to happen to
15 the other Inupiat communities if development occurs
16 in Teshekpuk Lake. Teshekpuk Lake is a very rich
17 biologically diverse area. It is home to the
18 nursery grounds for many birds that travel to other

19 continents. It is the nursery ground for the
20 Teshekpuk herd. We depend on these animals to feed
21 our families. We can't pay for the cost of western
22 foods to feed our families.

23 The changes that have already occurred have
24 greatly impacted how we interact in our community.
25 It affects how we educate our children, how we show

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1 them how to hunt and subsist our traditional foods.
2 It affects how our community unity is going. It is
3 dividing us in many ways. It's very difficult for
4 us to interact and communicate with all the changes
5 that are occurring. The cumulative effects are
6 devastating us in many ways that we have not well
7 understood. There aren't enough studies to
8 effectively plan and understand what's already been
9 approved for development, yet what is coming with
10 this new lease sale. And we are very concerned.

11 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 3.

12 MR. SCHOEN: Good morning. My name
13 is John Schoen. I'm the senior scientist with
14 Audubon Alaska. My name is S-C-H-O-E-N. Doesn't
15 spell like it sounds. I'd like to thank you
16 distinguished guests for being here and Secretary
17 Kempthorne. This is a very important event. We
18 appreciate it very much.

19 I'd like also to speak about Teshekpuk Lake,
20 but I'll come to it from a science background. But
21 before I do, let me just be very clear that Audubon
22 Alaska and myself personally use oil and gas
23 products. We recognize the value of the oil and gas
24 industry to Alaska and we believe that oil and gas
25 development on the North Slope is reasonable, but it

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1 needs to be done in balance with conservation and
2 the kinds of things that Rosemary talked about.

3 The Teshekpuk Lake area is one of the most
4 unique wetland complexes in the Arctic. I want to
5 focus just on two elements, molting geese and the
6 Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd. Molting geese are
7 flightless. They lose their flight feathers and are
8 very sensitive to disturbance.

9 Caribou, as we have learned with the Central
10 Arctic herd near Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk, can be
11 displaced from important calving areas and their
12 movements to insect relief habitat can be disrupted,
13 and that has happened. The Natural Resource Council
14 has confirmed what other scientists have said about
15 the Central Arctic herd. The mitigation measures
16 for the area north and east of Teshekpuk Lake, we
17 feel, are inadequate to protect these very valuable
18 resources.

19 The Teshekpuk caribou herd is the most
20 important caribou herd to the people of the North
21 Slope for subsistence. This vast wetlands complex
22 with all these individual lakes make movement by
23 caribou quite -- quite a tenuous adventure as they

24 travel through these narrow corridors. And of
25 course, the lakes provide security for the sensitive
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1 molting geese.

2 We believe that the combination of an
3 infrastructure, an incremental sprawl of development
4 as it moves through that area, it's not going to be
5 one simple Alpine development. I have been to
6 Alpine. I'm impressed with Alpine. But it's going
7 to be connected with gravel roads, with pipelines.
8 And the combination of that kind of incremental
9 sprawl with climate change is going to be cumulative
10 and synergistic. So those issues have not been --
11 there is not adequate mitigation.

12 The risk to those important resources, we
13 believe, is quite significant. And all of the
14 scientists that are addressing this issue from state
15 and federal agencies and universities, I suggest
16 that you speak with them, you understand what they
17 are saying, and try to incorporate their concerns
18 into development on the North Slope. And my
19 recommendation, our recommendation is that leasing,
20 which is imminent, be rescinded and really focus on
21 hearing what the people of the North Slope Borough
22 are telling you and really listen to the scientists.

23 Thank you very much.

24 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 4. If you
25 see your number starting to come up, if you could

0043

1 come up and take a seat up here close, we'll save a
2 little bit of time. Thank you.

3 MR. STRATTON: Good morning,
4 Mr. Secretary, members of the panel. My name is Jim
5 Stratton, S-T-R-A-T-T-O-N. I'm the Alaska Regional
6 Director for the bipartisan National Parks
7 Conservation Association, a leading voice in
8 protecting and enhancing our National Park System
9 for present and future generations.

10 I have lived in Alaska since right after the
11 Alaska Lands Act passed, and I currently make my
12 home in Anchorage.

13 Mr. Secretary, NPCA would like to thank you for
14 your recent decision to finalize a strong set of
15 management policies for the National Park Service
16 that both protects our National Park heritage and is
17 respectful of the local communities. This positive
18 action exemplifies your fresh leadership at Interior
19 and is a strong example of how cooperative
20 conservation should work. We look forward to seeing
21 the final version soon.

22 The Alaska Lands Act protected for future
23 generations some of America's most outstanding
24 natural features as National Parks, monuments and
25 preserves, and it directed the Park Service to

0044

1 manage these areas to sustain our unique Alaskan
2 lifestyle, including provisions for subsistence

3 hunting by rural residents and sport hunting in our
4 national preserves. These Alaska-specific
5 management challenges, coupled with the unique
6 budget challenges of managing Alaska's larger remote
7 parks, such as park rangers needing small planes for
8 basic patrolling, speak to the need for a budget
9 increase, not only for National Parks in Alaska, but
10 for parks all across the country as they struggle
11 with an annual operational fund shortfall in excess
12 of \$600,000,000.

13 Mr. Secretary, your support for park funding
14 was voiced last Friday in Yellowstone when you
15 announced the National Park Centennial Challenge on
16 the 90th birthday of the National Park Service.
17 NPCA looks forward to working closely with you as
18 you develop the details as we move towards the Park
19 Service 100th birthday in 2016. This initiative is
20 a great opportunity for you to make your mark on the
21 National Park Service in a manner and significance
22 not available to many Interior secretaries, and a
23 significant investment in the Park Service will be a
24 great first step.

25 One unique issue in Alaska is the need to
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1 adequately fund wildlife population science and
2 harvest data for animals taken in Alaskan units of
3 our National Park System. Congress made it very
4 clear that hunting is an allowed activity, and it
5 also made very clear that the Park Service must
6 sustain natural and healthy wildlife populations.
7 NPCA is not claiming that there is currently any
8 problem, nor do we see that hunting is a threat to
9 park resources, but according to our analysis, the
10 Park Service lacks the necessary resources to
11 monitor wildlife populations and harvest levels to
12 make certain that there is no problem. And should
13 wildlife populations drop below what is natural and
14 healthy, the opportunity to hunt would be at risk.

15 Our full analysis is detailed in a new report
16 we released just two weeks ago called, Who's
17 Counting? How Insufficient Support for Science is
18 Hindering National Park Wildlife Management in
19 Alaska. I'd be glad to give you this copy. This
20 lack of data is not an indication of a lack of
21 interest on the part of the National Park Service,
22 but is rather indicative of the funding shortfalls
23 that affect the entire National Park System. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 5.
0046

1 MR. ROSS: My name is Don Ross from
2 Fairbanks. I represent myself. I call this
3 Teshekpuk Lake Adieu. It fits the Arctic National
4 Wildlife Refuge. It fits the Yukon Flats land
5 exchange. Drill it all, drill it all, so there is
6 nothing left but appall. These children will say
7 when we kneel down to pray, you appall, you appall.

8 You left nothing unscratched so no nestlings could
9 hatch. Why did you bugger it all? Bugger all,
10 bugger all. The long and the short and the tall.
11 You made such a muss, you left nothing for us. Why
12 did you bugger it all.

13 Bugger all, bugger all. The long and the short
14 and the tall. It would really be nice if you'd
15 thought more than twice then went buggering away at
16 the mall. At the mall, at the mall.

17 There is no more to say but to bid you good
18 day. Thank you all, thank you all, you long, you
19 short, you tall.

20 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 6.

21 MR. PAQUIN. My name is Larry Paquin.
22 Last name is spelled P-A-Q-U-I-N. I'd like to thank
23 you for the opportunity to give some testimony here.

24 I'd like to kind of answer the question: How
25 can the federal government enhance wildlife

0047

1 protection in Alaska? I'll be specific. Teshekpuk
2 Lake in the National Petroleum Reserve was
3 established as a wildlife refuge in 1977 by the
4 Secretary of Interior. There is a reason why.

5 Around this lake, not far from Barrow near the
6 Arctic coast there is a complex of wetlands that
7 support migratory birds and Teshekpuk Lake caribou.
8 The people of Barrow and other places in that region
9 depend on this area heavily for their resources.
10 BLM's flawed oil drilling plan by the lake is
11 opposed by scientists from Alaska Fish & Wildlife
12 Service, University of Alaska scientists, and others
13 around who have seen it for its rich area, and they
14 don't want to see it exploited. Previous Alaska
15 Administrations and the North Slope Borough all
16 oppose drilling around the lake.

17 While most of the National Petroleum Reserve is
18 open to oil drilling and exploration, some should be
19 kept off from the drilling plan. Here is a closer
20 list to -- anyway, a person should -- in your group
21 here should be listening more closely to the voices
22 of conservation because, like I say, a lot of these
23 areas are open in the National Petroleum Reserve.
24 This is not an area that should be exploited. If
25 you want to really live up to the slogan you have

0048

1 there, cooperative conservation, you have got to
2 listen to the people who are giving you good advice
3 and saying don't drill in the Teshekpuk Lake area.

4 BLM's drilling strategy is especially
5 destructive in the northeast part of it where there
6 is a surrounding area, a complex of small lakes
7 where there is molting wild fowl, especially molting
8 geese and the Teshekpuk Lake caribou. This
9 especially fertile area is threatened also by
10 climate change, by land erosion, and if you add the
11 oil drilling to the area that these -- especially
12 the migratory water fowl and the Teshekpuk Lake

13 caribou depend on, then you are exacerbating a
14 condition that should not be touched.

15 There are renewable resources from these
16 wildlife from caribou, from the water fowl that the
17 people depend on. They have depended on them for
18 millennium. And like I say, they are renewable.
19 But if you sacrifice this area for a nonrenewable
20 resource, when it's done, what will the people do
21 who depend on this area?

22 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 7? No. 8?
23 No. 9?

24 MS. MILLER: Good morning. Thank you
25 for coming to Fairbanks. We are glad to have you

0049

1 here. My name is Debbie Miller, M-I-L-L-E-R. And
2 I've lived in Alaska for 30 years. I'm here
3 representing myself as an author, as a mother, as a
4 teacher, and also I am a founding board member of
5 the Alaska Wilderness League and a representative
6 for the newly formed Friends of Alaska's National
7 Wildlife Refuges. We hope to be working closely
8 with all of the 16 wildlife refuges providing
9 volunteers where needed. This summer I know we
10 worked at the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge on the
11 invasive weed pulling program, which was pretty
12 tedious, but we had a number of volunteers working
13 there. So this has just been formed in the last
14 year.

15 I'd like to comment about living in Alaska and
16 experiencing the wilderness and wildlife in the -- a
17 number of wildlife refuges that I have visited,
18 specifically my favorite, the Arctic National
19 Wildlife Refuge. I feel very privileged to have
20 lived in Arctic Village, a Gwich'in Athabaskan
21 Indian speaking village, where I taught school. And
22 I was given a wonderful opportunity. During the
23 summers my husband and I would take off and hike for
24 many, many weeks at a time exploring this vast area.
25 The coastal plain I've walked across a number of

0050

1 times: the Okpilak River, the Egaksrak River, the
2 Aichilik River, the Hulahula River, the Katakturuk
3 River.

4 These are rivers that flow from the crest of
5 Brooks Range all the way to the Arctic Ocean that
6 offer an incredible habitat for birds that come from
7 six continents, one of the largest caribou herds.
8 Polar bears den in this area. You as steward of
9 these lands have a tremendous responsibility and a
10 daunting task to convince your President, your boss,
11 that we should not drill in a sensitive area like
12 the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. This is
13 such a special place and we have no business
14 building roads and pipelines and putting in drilling
15 platforms in an area that's a birthplace for so many
16 different species. So this is a daunting task that
17 you have to advise the Administration that we have

18 been in the wrong direction for a number of years.

19 I have worked on this issue for 25 years. We
20 have -- many of us have worked to protect this area,
21 and we would hope that you would try to convince
22 President Bush that there are many other less
23 sensitive places to drill for oil. There are many
24 other alternatives in terms of alternative energy,
25 renewable energy. We do not need to go into

0051

1 wildlife refuges and put in oil fields. It violates
2 the purposes of the Arctic Refuge.

3 It violates international treaty obligations
4 with respect to protecting polar bear denning
5 habitat, caribou calving habitat, migratory birds
6 that come from all these continents. We are
7 violating treaties. We are violating the very
8 purposes for why we established the Arctic Refuge if
9 we allow drilling there.

10 So this is very important and I urge you to
11 work specifically on this issue and the others that
12 folks have mentioned with regard to Teshekpuk Lake.
13 It's not a refuge, but it actually should be. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 9.

16 MS. DEWITT: Hello. My name is Nancy
17 DeWitt, D-E-W-I-T-T, former Boise girl and a 15-year
18 resident of Fairbanks. I work for the Alaska Bird
19 Observatory, which is a nongovernmental organization
20 located right here in Fairbanks.

21 Since 1992 we have cooperated with our state
22 and federal resource agencies on numerous projects
23 that enhance wildlife and habitat conservation.
24 These have included projects performed through
25 cooperative agreements, contracts, challenge cost

0052

1 share grants, and state wildlife grants.

2 Grants that require matching funds can be very
3 effective at attracting private dollars and
4 volunteer support. In fact, in our experience these
5 grants can build fabulous cooperation by a wide
6 range of private, government, and nonprofit
7 partners. However, Alaska's small population and
8 modest number of corporations and private
9 foundations substantially limit the ability of
10 Alaska NGOs to raise matching support for challenge
11 grants.

12 I was very distressed to learn that the
13 matching requirement for state wildlife grants is
14 going up from 25 percent to 100 percent effective
15 October 1st. This will severely lessen the ability
16 of NGOs to participate in the state wildlife grant
17 program, which is very ironic when you consider NGOs
18 probably provide the most cost-effective
19 conservation services that the government can buy.

20 The Presidential Conference on Cooperative
21 Conservation last year identified eliminating
22 barriers to cooperation and existing policy as one

23 of three ways to improve conservation results; yet
24 raising the state wildlife grant match requirement
25 to 100 percent creates a barrier, not just for NGOs,
0053

1 but will hamper the ability of the Alaska Department
2 of Fish & Game to implement our state's new wildlife
3 conservation plan.

4 The Pittman-Robinson and Dingell-Johnson
5 programs for conservation of game animals require a
6 25 percent match, so why set the bar higher for
7 conservation of nongame species, especially those
8 species at risk.

9 In closing, I would like to state that
10 cooperative conservation is a great concept, but if
11 in the end science and public and professional
12 opinion are ignored by the policy makers, as is
13 being done with critical habitat north of Teshekpuk
14 Lake, it's just a huge waste of many good people's
15 time and money.

16 Thank you for this opportunity to speak today.

17 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 10.

18 MR. KEIM: My name is Frank Keim,
19 K-E-I-M. I've been in Fairbanks and the Lower Yukon
20 Delta since 1961. All right. I'm representing
21 myself and my family. Okay. And it's against the
22 Yukon Flats land exchange. All right.

23 Secretary Kempthorne, have you heard of the
24 Rampart Dam Project? I imagine you have. This plan
25 to construct a dam across the Yukon River that would
0054

1 have flooded the Yukon Flats is one of the most
2 harebrained schemes ever proposed by the United
3 States Government. The Yukon Flats land exchange is
4 yet another harebrained idea which, if brought to
5 reality, would permanently damage the Yukon Flats.

6 On the surface this deal, which would exchange
7 our public wildlife refuge lands in the Yukon Flats
8 for Doyon Corporation lands, has been touted as the
9 best thing that ever hit Interior Alaska, but it is
10 affirmatively not. Not only was this bad deal --
11 and I emphasize it is a bad deal -- crafted in
12 secret between Doyon Corporation and Fish & Wildlife
13 Service without public review or comment, but if
14 drilled by Doyon for oil and gas, one of the world's
15 premier wildlife refuges would be immeasurably
16 polluted.

17 And remember, this is a place where I'm told
18 millions of geese, ducks, swans, cranes, and other
19 species of birds nest, not to mention how the
20 drilling would disrupt countless other forms of wild
21 animals and fish and the native people who depend
22 upon them for their subsistence.

23 Recently I flew over the part of the refuge
24 where Doyon wants to drill for oil and gas. It's
25 predominantly an upland area. And know what gravity
0055

1 does, we can only imagine what would happen over the

2 course of the 30-year life of the oil and gas
3 fields. If you think the recent terrible BP oil
4 spills on the North Slope were bad, you better think
5 twice about this one.

6 Drilling for oil and gas is simply not
7 compatible with the purpose of the refuge.
8 Furthermore, this land exchange would set a terrible
9 precedent for allowing future oil and gas
10 development on refuges and other conservation system
11 units in Alaska and the Lower 48.

12 For these reasons and one more, Secretary
13 Kempthorne, you should not allow this land exchange
14 to take place. The final reason you shouldn't allow
15 it is that all the villages in the Yukon Flats,
16 except one with only 30 people, are against this
17 exchange.

18 And I have a postscript. The absolute bottom
19 line to all of this, Mr. Secretary, is that we must
20 wean ourselves off our oil and gas addiction as soon
21 as possible so that we don't have to sacrifice wild
22 lands such as the Yukon Flats. It's one of your
23 responsibilities to see that this happens. Thanks.

24 MR. CASE: Thank you. Number 11.
25 No. 12?

0056

1 MS. MAYO: Sorry. I'm No. 11. My
2 name is Gail Mayo, M-A-Y-O. Thank you, Secretary
3 Kempthorne, for giving us an opportunity to express
4 our concerns directly to you, and thank you for
5 listening. I represent Arctic Audubon, an Audubon
6 chapter whose 300 members cover much of the area
7 north from the Alaska Range to the Arctic Ocean.

8 This morning we want to urge you to cancel the
9 upcoming lease sales in the Teshekpuk Lake area in
10 the northeast portion of the Alaska Petroleum
11 Reserve. This area is well documented as an
12 important wildlife area by numerous studies and
13 censuses, many produced by scientists working in
14 Interior departments. Further, the bird life
15 dependent on this area during critical stages of
16 their yearly and/or life cycles disperse throughout
17 North America, providing sustenance and enjoyment to
18 countless people of the entire 48 -- I mean, United
19 States.

20 The Teshekpuk Lake and its surrounding area are
21 truly unique, as the Grand Canyon is unique in the
22 American West. If oil development were to proceed
23 in this area, the networks of access roads would
24 fracture the habitat and the potential for
25 environmental damage from oil industry activities

0057

1 would be a continual threat.

2 I am very fond of sayings, and this is a very
3 familiar one: "To err is human." Oil industries'
4 record has proven that, especially with the events
5 of the last year, this is true. The rest of the
6 saying applies directly to the Teshekpuk Lake area

7 and to the Arctic Refuge, as well.
8 We urge you, Senator Kempthorne, to be long
9 sighted, to consider the entire picture versus short
10 sighted industry demands. To love is divine.

11 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 12.

12 MS. BEACH: Hello. My name is Luci
13 Beach, and I'm the executive director of the
14 Gwich'in Steering Committee. The Gwich'in Steering
15 Committee was authorized by the Gwich'in Nation to
16 represent the Gwich'in Nation in regards to Iizhik
17 Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit, the Sacred Place Where
18 Life Begins.

19 In 1988 when the people of the Gwich'in Nation
20 heard of the threat of oil development in the
21 calving and nursery grounds of the Porcupine caribou
22 herd, we gathered as a nation and took our stand to
23 protect this place that has been of importance since
24 time immemorial. At one time we were a nomadic
25 people and we followed the Porcupine caribou herd,

0058
1 not unlike the symbol of the department that you are
2 now secretary of.

3 We are like the Plains Indians and the buffalo.
4 When we became -- when we settled into permanent
5 communities, we located our communities along the
6 migration route of the Porcupine caribou herd. In
7 my own family there is stories of three famines that
8 we survived, and never once did we go up into the
9 calving and nursery grounds because we consider this
10 place so sacred.

11 I have to say that I was disappointed when I
12 saw your schedule that you did not schedule a
13 meeting in one of our communities. We are not a
14 random group of people opposed to development in an
15 Arctic Refuge. It is the entire Gwich'in Nation,
16 and this position was reiterated at our recent
17 biennial gathering. We still depend on this. And
18 for us, this is a human rights issue that we be
19 allowed to continue our way of life that we have
20 known all these many years.

21 And in your consideration, I would hope that
22 you would not only listen -- not only hear, but also
23 listen, and at some point we invite you to come to
24 one of our communities to hear from us and hopefully
25 to hear with an open heart. This area that we are

0059
1 talking about is one of the last available places
2 for development on the North Slope. When I look at
3 maps now of what's available, the entire North Slope
4 and the outer continental shelf, it's like an
5 invasion. And when I talk to my friends from the
6 North Slope, I feel very saddened that their way of
7 life is so very threatened in my own lifetime and
8 that we are looking at the effects of climate change
9 which we now know has been confirmed by the National
10 Academy of Science is directly related to fossil
11 fuel.

12 So it is in the best interests of not only the
13 Gwich'in Nation, but of the world to leave this
14 place off limits and to know that there are living,
15 breathing people that depend on this renewable
16 resource as we have for so many generations. Mahsi
17 Choo.

18 MR. CASE: Thank you. 13.

19 MR. THOMPSON: My name is Robert
20 Thompson. I'm from Kaktovik. Kaktovik is within
21 the borders of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
22 I'm very much opposed to this development --
23 proposed development.

24 A few days ago from my living room window I
25 could see a seismic ship inside of our village. So

0060

1 it's very clear that the move to develop oil has
2 progressed to the very remotest part of the United
3 States. I think Kaktovik is the very -- most remote
4 village in all of the United States, and now this
5 oil development has gone to that extent. So --

6 And then we learn about that there was no
7 environmental impact statement done in regards to
8 this. We are very concerned that this activity is
9 going to affect our whaling. We're having changes
10 due to climate change. There's up to 300 miles of
11 open water, and this activity near the coast may
12 damage the whales' hearing, but the activity most
13 certainly will divert the whales further out.
14 Previously without this climate change, they would
15 have been restricted to more near shore areas, but
16 now that's not the case.

17 Also on the land, I think the climate change
18 has had very dramatic, drastic effects. The last
19 Fish & Wildlife count, there was one musk ox left,
20 and the Porcupine caribou herd is down 50- to 60,000
21 animals. So in regards to considering development
22 there, I think that the concept -- the actual
23 happening of climate change should be considered.
24 We are getting rain in the winter at times, and it's
25 affected the habitat. Some things that are

0061

1 happening with wildlife aren't even anticipated, but
2 one thing leads to another when one animal is
3 dependent on the other. So you should look at these
4 and -- and, you know, when you consider this.

5 And also the one fact that should be known to
6 all the people in the United States is that this
7 refuge is five percent or less of what's available
8 for oil exploitation on the North Slope. So there
9 is huge amounts of oil separate from the refuge,
10 probably more than can be transferred through the
11 pipeline that's in place. So if the American public
12 were to know this, know these facts that you know,
13 the -- that it's not necessary to develop this,
14 possibly that they would, you know, not -- well,
15 they have been opposed to this and it's been the
16 will of the people so far.

17 I appreciate the theme of this conservation;
18 however, when you talk about conservation and our
19 going into some of the last wilderness that the
20 United States has, I question that theme.

21 Conservation would mean that we save some of that
22 for future generations, my people, and all the
23 people of the United States. Thank you.

24 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 14.

25 MR. KINGIK: Uvlaalluataq. I welcome

0062

1 you, Senator. I'm an Inupiaq whaler. Thank you for
2 NOAA for giving us the privilege to hunt whale. A
3 few years back International Whaling Commission said
4 no more whaling. And I thank you, NOAA, for giving
5 me a chance. I'm an Inupiaq. I'm a subsistence
6 fisherman. And I'm a Western Arctic Caribou Herd
7 Working Group member. And I belong to the RED OIL
8 that is very important to my life.

9 It was good to see young people up front
10 because my young people have the same thoughts, too.
11 Their future. It's their future. My message to the
12 Secretary of Interior is cooperative. We need NOAA,
13 EPA, Marine Mammal Fisheries, whoever they are, to
14 learn how to cooperate with the tribal organizations
15 and which President Clinton, having executed an
16 order, to work government to government. We work
17 together and we will cooperate.

18 On the conservation part, us Inupiaq people of
19 the north are conservationists. We conserve our
20 animals and the way we live up here.

21 Thank you. And this is my short message to the
22 Secretary of Interior that we need to learn how to

23 work together as tribes. Tribes got a lot of
24 authority. Alaska preservation. The
25 State-chartered organization. City of Point Hope is

0063

1 a State-chartered organization. North Slope Borough
2 is a State-chartered organization. And they are the
3 ones that is going for offshore and seismic studies,
4 or any other oil exploration in my area. My tribe
5 want to work with NOAA. My tribe want to work with
6 EPA. My tribe want to work with U.S. Fish &
7 Wildlife and report to the Secretary of Interior of
8 our decision. So we need to work together.

9 And one more thing, my last statement. I come
10 from an area called Kamaktuk. That's my clan. And
11 it's sad to report to Western Arctic caribou herd do
12 migrate to the Red Dog Mine. You all probably heard
13 about the most polluted mine in the United States.
14 It's called Red Dog Mine. Another one of my
15 regional corporations under the Lands Claims Act
16 that's willing to open the coal mine and the Western
17 Arctic caribou herd insect and relief grounds.
18 That's what I'm going to leave you with. And thank
19 you very much for giving me the time.

20 MR. CASE: Thank you, No. 15.

21 MS. JAMES: My name is Sarah James,
22 and I'm from Arctic Village, Alaska.
23 (Statement in Native dialect.) I say, all my
24 relations, behalf of the sacred place where the life
25 begin, not only for the caribou, but all life, I

0064

1 welcome you to Alaska. My name is Sarah James. I'm
2 a member, the tribal member to Native Village of
3 Venetie. There is two villages on Native Village of
4 Venetie tribal land. We've got 1.8 million acres.
5 And one of them is Arctic Village, and that's where
6 I'm from. Arctic Village is located 110 miles
7 northeast of Alaska -- north of Arctic Circle. And
8 the Gwich'in Nation is covered Northeast Alaska and
9 north of Yukon Territory and coastal plain of the
10 McKenzie delta area of Northwest Territory.

11 There is 15 villages that speak with one voice
12 since 1988 when the elders got us back together
13 after so many years separation by our border between
14 us. At that time Gwich'in elders direct us to get
15 against the oil and gas development of the Arctic
16 National Wildlife Refuge, the coastal plain of the
17 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. At that time they
18 gave us direction to do this in a good way and no
19 compromise, and we did well.

20 I'm here on behalf of all American that spoke
21 loud and clear for nine times since 1988 stopping
22 the drilling of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
23 They come together and we made friends, and that was
24 our direction, to educate the world. That was our
25 direction from the Gwich'in elders at that time.

0065

1 As a nation, like Luci said, we don't want to
2 repeat the history of the Plains Indians was to the
3 buffalo. The sacred place where the life begin is
4 our subsistence. It's our food, the caribou that
5 born there every year. It's a sacred place. It's
6 the only safe place. It's the only quiet place as a
7 birthplace, as being human, as being a woman, you
8 have to have a quiet place, clean place, a private
9 place to have your baby. The same goes for the
10 animals. That's why come to us, it's a sacred
11 place. (Statement in Native dialect.)

12 And that's a very important part of the whole
13 ecosystem. We have made a lot of friends through
14 churches, through tribes. We have a lot of
15 resolution right there. That's just only a few of
16 them. I'm going to present it to the Secretary of
17 Interior.

18 MR. CASE: Thank you.

19 MS. JAMES: And global warming is
20 clearly real, and doing other development is not
21 reducing the climate change. And I'd like to invite
22 you to all the Gwich'in villages and able to talk
23 directly to them face-to-face, cooperative
24 conservation. Listening to us as Gwich'in, the
25 meeting is face-to-face to face the truth. So you

0066

1 are invited to all our Gwich'in villages. There is
2 15 villages. I'm inviting you to Arctic Village.
3 Arctic Village is very nice people. We like people
4 to come and visit us. We will give you a gift for
5 coming to us. And we will have face-to-face
6 meeting.

7 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 16. 17,
8 18, 19, 20?

9 MR. HARRIS: Bingo. Tom Harris. I'm
10 CEO for Tyonek Native Corporation. H-A-R-R-I-S.
11 And I appreciate the opportunity to visit with you
12 and to express some issues of concern to the
13 community of Tyonek and we believe many Alaskans.

14 We believe in cooperative conservation. We
15 have had the opportunity to visit in St. Louis in
16 the initial meeting last August. We celebrate the
17 success that the cooperative conservation processes
18 have in the lower 49 states, particularly in
19 supporting private landowners to restore and
20 conserve. We have to share with you that we long
21 for that success here in Alaska because that success
22 is not present here in Alaska.

23 As an example, Idaho harvested three times the
24 grazing wildlife, or deer family wildlife, than
25 Alaska did last year. On a per-acre basis, Idaho

0067

1 was ten times more productive than Alaska is.
2 Within 60 miles of your office in D.C., more
3 wildlife was harvested than was harvested in all of
4 Alaska last year of this grazing wildlife. Four
5 states -- Alabama, Wisconsin, Maryland, and
6 Pennsylvania -- on a per-acre basis harvest 100
7 times what Alaska does. The bag limit in Alabama is
8 31 deer. Each one of these states has more mining
9 industry than Alaska does.

10 So clearly, the cooperative conservation
11 efforts that you instituted as a -- as a policy have
12 worked. We have been watching this for right around
13 six years now, but the records go back 25 years.
14 Alaska's moose population is now the lowest on
15 record. And we ask the agencies, all of them, to
16 come together here in Alaska to establish
17 cooperative conservation as it exists in the Lower
18 48 here in Alaska with the private landowners.

19 And particularly, we are asking this because it
20 appears for the last -- as far back as we can see,
21 equitable access has been denied, equitable forum
22 has been denied, and equitable opportunity to
23 achieve economic sustainability in our lands has
24 also been denied. We ask for equitable access to
25 these programs, not just as Alaska Natives, but as

0068

1 Alaskans and as Americans.

2 I'll wrap up with this comment: We ask for
3 this because today these programs are being provided
4 to Russian immigrants in their own language within

5 16 miles of where we are today. So with that in
6 mind, thank you for hearing me, and we look forward
7 to future discussions how this might be a solution.
8 Gunalcheesh.

9 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 20.

10 MS. REBNE: Thank you. My name is
11 Brenda Rebne, R-E-B-N-E. I am a tribal member of
12 the Native Village of Cantwell, Vice President of
13 Corporate Affairs for Ahtna Regional Corporation,
14 and representative to the AFN Board for eight state
15 and federally recognized tribes.

16 I'm here to urge you to continue to retain
17 ownership of the lands within PLO 5150, the
18 transportation corridor. Those lines are critical
19 to the Ahtna region. Fifty-five miles of the Alaska
20 pipeline runs through four villages and within the
21 Ahtna regional boundaries, our land entitlement.
22 Those lands are particularly important for
23 subsistence hunting. Those are our traditional
24 subsistence hunting areas. And we have very little
25 subsistence rights now of our lands.

0069

1 We are entitled to 1.7 million acres. We have
2 entitlement to 1.5 million acres. 30,000 of those
3 acres are within what we call the hard park. That's
4 the old park in Denali. And 600,000 acres are
5 within the boundaries of the new park, Wrangell
6 St-Elias National Park and Preserve. Those lands we
7 should be able to use for subsistence as guaranteed
8 under Title VIII. And the reality of it is access
9 is practically impossible. So the right is there in
10 writing in the books, but on the ground we really
11 have a difficult time accessing that, and
12 particularly with other regulations, the new access
13 guide that's come out.

14 So the lands that are in the PLO 5150 area that
15 I'm speaking of are outside of the park boundaries,
16 and those are critical to our survival as
17 subsistence users. Subsistence is also threatened
18 by populations. Something that there is --

19 There is a disconnect somewhere understanding
20 what subsistence means. Subsistence is our way of
21 life. Subsistence is how we connect to our lands
22 emotionally, physically, spiritually. It doesn't
23 matter how much money we make. It doesn't matter
24 whether we can own an ATV or can afford an ATV. Our
25 job is to take care of our elders, and we do that by

0070

1 subsistence. It doesn't matter that I can go to the
2 store and get a beef steak. I don't want a beef
3 steak. I want to be able to eat my traditional
4 foods. And I want to be able to provide those for
5 my elders.

6 And under the State system now, our rights are
7 getting so infringed upon that it is getting tighter
8 and tighter and harder and harder. So anytime there
9 is any threat to our federal right to subsist on

10 federal lands, we need to really urge you to please
11 protect those. Please do retain ownership of those
12 lands within the PLO 5150 area. Thank you.

13 MR. CASE: Thank you. 21.

14 MR. MAUER: My name is Fran Mauer,
15 spelled M-A-U-E-R. I'm speaking for myself.
16 Mr. Secretary and your distinguished colleagues,
17 thank you for the opportunity to hear us. I'm a
18 35-year Alaska resident and retired U.S. Fish &
19 Wildlife Service biologist. The last 21 years of my
20 career were at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
21 where I studied caribou and other wildlife. I
22 believe I -- as a lover of wilderness and wildlife
23 and the outdoors, I believe I was fortunate to have
24 one of the best jobs in the world for all those
25 years.

0071

1 And I want to add that after countless studies
2 over the past 25 years, the record is clear. There
3 will be significant harm to many species, habitats,
4 subsistence and wilderness resources if oil leasing
5 and development were allowed there. There is strong
6 consensus in the scientific community for this
7 statement. Even the environmental impact statement
8 of 1987 and the report to Congress that was prepared
9 during the Reagan Administration clearly indicated
10 this. It cannot be done in an environmentally
11 friendly manner, as the oil spills and pipeline
12 corrosion at Prudhoe Bay have recently revealed.

13 During my career, I had several opportunities
14 to personally meet and provide information to some
15 of your predecessors. The first was a former
16 governor from Idaho, Cecil Andrus, and the last was
17 Gail Norton, who I accompanied on a tour of the
18 Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain in 2001.

19 From such encounters I have learned that it's
20 primarily the job of the Secretary of Interior to
21 strike a balance between development and
22 preservation. The proper balance should take into
23 account that there are some areas of America's
24 Arctic, such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
25 and Teshekpuk Lake as examples, that are too

0072

1 sensitive and should be preserved in their natural
2 condition, while less sensitive areas may be
3 developed using adequate precautions. This is
4 balance.

5 Our nation and the entire world is at a
6 critical juncture with regard to the use of fossil
7 fuels and global warming. We need leadership to get
8 us to a sustainable energy future, emphasizing
9 conservation efficiency and alternatives. This can
10 be accomplished without sacrificing our natural
11 heritage to pay for the energy research programs.
12 We should not rob from Peter to pay Paul, as some
13 proposed legislation would do.

14 It would be a colossal tragedy if any of our

15 sensitive Arctic areas were damaged due to a
16 stampede to get more oil, which will only prolong
17 our addiction. The time for treatment is now. We
18 need to keep these natural treasures for the health
19 of our country and those who will follow us. That
20 is conservation in the truest sense, and I urge you
21 to practice it. Thank you.

22 MR. CASE: Thank you. 22.

23 MS. KREMERS: My name is Carolyn
24 Kremers. That's K-R-E-M-E-R-S. I want to thank you
25 all for coming to Fairbanks. Welcome. And tell you

0073

1 that I grew up in Colorado. I moved to Alaska 20
2 years ago in 1986 to teach in a Yupik Eskimo
3 village, which is in Western Alaska, the village of
4 Tununak. Now I teach at the University of Alaska
5 Fairbanks and in the Fairbanks schools. And I also
6 write.

7 I brought a poem that I'd like to read, and I'm
8 just going to read parts of it. It's called
9 Pictures at an Exhibition, Words for 14 Imagined
10 Photographs of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

11 One: From the south, river rafts, kayaks,
12 inflatable canoes. From the north, polar bear
13 mothers coming to make dens. From the east, 120,000
14 caribou. From the Platte River, New England, the
15 Rocky Mountains, Hawaii, South America, Asia,
16 Africa, Australia, Antarctica, millions of birds.
17 From Kaktovik, Inupiaq hunters traveling by boat or
18 snowmachine. From the Gwich'in, no one. This place
19 is sacred.

20 Five: This destination is far and very wet.
21 Songbirds, mosquitoes, big bumblebees; all are
22 buzzing, humming, singing. Their wings are powered
23 not by oil, but by energy from the sun. Already
24 they have taught us much. Where is our patience to
25 keep listening?

0074

1 Seven: If the people understood better their
2 relationship to the sun, land, sky, and to all the
3 living and nonliving things between, perhaps they
4 would want to protect this place in its entirety,
5 its unity, its unbroken body for their children's
6 children, for the seven generations, in perpetuity
7 until the sun becomes a cinder.

8 Eight: Something in the panorama whispers: No
9 human being owns this place.

10 Fourteen: Observe, says the river. Recognize,
11 consider, remember, heed, bear witness. Embrace.
12 Be humbled, amazed.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. CASE: Thank you. 23.

15 MR. MACDONALD: My name is Mark
16 MacDonald, M-A-C-D-O-N-A-L-D. I'm the Episcopal
17 Bishop of Alaska. (Statements in Alaska dialect.)
18 Good morning. I welcome you in the first four
19 languages of our diocese. We have been here since

20 1862, and I'm here to underline what I feel are the
21 most important and urgent principles involved in
22 this issue to the Episcopal Church, and I believe
23 that I represent all of the major spiritual
24 traditions of our planet.

25 In the early 1900s, the Episcopal Church acted
0075

1 in concert with Native peoples to protect
2 subsistence fishing on the Yukon. It was a
3 dangerous position to take at the time, but they did
4 it because they felt the principles were critical.
5 In the Project Chariot issue that developed in Point
6 Hope, which you are probably familiar with, it was
7 the church again believed that it had a compelling
8 interest in acting with the people. More recently
9 in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, we feel the
10 same.

11 The principles are easy, but important. We
12 believe, along with the major spiritual and legal
13 traditions of our planet, that there is a unique
14 relationship between aboriginal peoples and the
15 land, a symbiotic relationship that is God given and
16 must be honored by all of the nations. This very
17 important relationship mirrors the living symbiotic
18 relationship that all humanity has, again, a
19 relationship that we believe is God given and
20 carries with it the authority of the ruler of
21 history. We believe that it is absolutely essential
22 that we recognize this unique relationship of the
23 Native peoples to the lands of Alaska, that that
24 would -- that always has to be a consideration when
25 looking at conservation, particularly in terms of

0076
1 cooperative conservation.

2 And we also believe that it is an urgent need
3 for all of us to recognize this relationship that
4 all humanity has. We believe that it's difficult
5 for our society to see that relationship because we
6 have somehow forgotten how essential it is to our
7 future that we be properly related to the world
8 around us. Thank you very much.

9 MR. CASE: Thank you. 24.

10 MS. ZALAR: Good morning. My name is
11 Mary Zalar, Z-A-L-A-R. I first came to Alaska in
12 1973 when I was in my early 20s and returned in '76
13 and '79 and moved to Fairbanks permanently in 1982.
14 And I think Secretary Kempthorne used a word in your
15 introductory remarks that -- it's true for me. I
16 reacted to the magnificence of this state. And
17 that's what kept bringing me back and that is what
18 makes me so privileged to live here is our
19 magnificent, beautiful natural state.

20 And it's not the magnificence of the oil fields
21 or the pipeline that have nourished my spirit and my
22 heart, but the natural landscape, the wild lands,
23 the wildlife, the bird life, the fish. These are
24 the things I treasure.

25 I think that our country is a rich country. I
0077

1 think we have the wealth to respect and to save some
2 of these lands and not have to exploit each area
3 that we find mineral resources, oil or gas. It's
4 rich enough to save these areas for the benefit of
5 the future and the benefit of all of us.

6 So what do I think we can do to enhance -- the
7 federal government to enhance wildlife habitat and
8 species protection? How can the federal government
9 better respect the interests of people like myself.

10 And I would urge you to do three things: Value
11 our natural landscapes, at least as much, if not
12 more than, the other natural resources that we seem
13 so urgently to want to need.

14 Concentrate, consolidate the development.
15 There are so many areas of our Arctic coast that are
16 open to oil development, places that there still are
17 oil that we can continue to extract and to meet the
18 needs of our society, as we should be and, as others
19 have said, we should be moving beyond fossil fuels
20 to try to address the issues that are facing us in
21 terms of climate change just adequate supply.

22 And listen to the scientists, their research,
23 their recommendations. I have great respect for the
24 work that has been done by the scientists at Audubon
25 Alaska and many others that have identified critical

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1 biological areas in the National Petroleum Reserve
2 Alaska. They have not opposed development
3 throughout the petroleum reserve. They are asking
4 to take seriously the critical habitats around
5 Teshekpuk Lake. And I think that's true also in
6 terms of the coastal plain of the Arctic National
7 Wildlife Refuge. There has been strong statements
8 about why this area should be respected.

9 So thanks for being here. Enjoy our state.
10 Thank you for listening because I think what you
11 have heard this morning so far is how much our
12 people value our natural landscape. Thank you.

13 MR. CASE: Thank you. 25.

14 MS. GEMMILL: Good morning. My name
15 is Faith Gemmill. I'm a Gwich'in from Arctic
16 Village, Alaska, and I'm here today to address you
17 as a young Gwich'in mother with two young children,
18 but also on behalf of the Indigenous Environmental
19 Network and the RED OIL Network, which stands for
20 Resisting Environmental Destruction on Indigenous
21 Lands.

22 I speak today on behalf of RED OIL. We were
23 formed in the year 2002 by Alaska Natives from every
24 region in the state due to the disproportionate
25 effects to our Alaska Native peoples from the fossil

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1 fuel industry on our lands, human and ecological
2 health, subsistence, sovereignty and ways of living.

3 RED OIL actually has a platform to address oil

4 and gas issues from a human rights perspective, and
5 we are calling upon the federal government to create
6 real energy policy, not energy policy that continues
7 on with a drill-it-all mentality. This country
8 needs to begin to look towards renewable energy now
9 and that would actually respect the indigenous
10 peoples, our homelands, our ways of life, the health
11 of our communities and our future generations
12 because it's our future generations that will pay a
13 very dear price from this unsustainable economic
14 development which is on our homelands.

15 And when you come to our communities or come to
16 these listening sessions, there should be time
17 allotted to go to the communities that are going to
18 be impacted by these energy proposals. Go to the
19 communities that are going to be impacted and listen
20 to the concerns of the communities and implement
21 that in these proposals. And when a community says
22 no energy development should happen here, that
23 should be the energy policy of the United States
24 because we are bearing the brunt and we are dying
25 from this energy development on our lands. So

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1 that's part of what RED OIL is calling for is true
2 energy policy.

3 We only own three percent of the world's known
4 oil reserves, yet we consume 25 percent of the
5 world's known oil reserves. There is a serious
6 imbalance. We need true energy policy now that
7 addresses this to have true national security.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. CASE: Ma'am, if we could get you
10 to spell your name.

11 MS. GEMMILL: G-E-M-M-I-L-L.

12 MR. CASE: Next is 26.

13 MS. LEWIS: Hello. My name is Sherry
14 Lewis, L-E-W-I-S. I have been in Alaska since 1975.
15 The U.S., United States, could be a leader in
16 conservation, but money and power of big companies
17 is making the United States short sighted.

18 Scientific research has shown the importance of
19 certain areas in the National Petroleum Reserve
20 Alaska to be very sensitive, areas like the
21 Teshekpuk Lake. They need to be protected from oil
22 drilling. The Bureau of Land Management didn't
23 listen. We hope you mean what you say, that you are
24 here to listen. Protect the biologically rich areas
25 in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska. Stop

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1 trying to open for drilling the coastal plain of the
2 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

3 I worked there for many summers as a guide.

4 Many of the people we took there, as we were
5 floating down the river, would state, I have never
6 seen a place like this. This is so unique. Listen
7 to the people of the United States who have over and
8 over again said they want the coastal plain of the

9 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge protected. Please
10 listen and cooperate. Please save some wild areas
11 for future generations. Thank you.

12 MR. CASE: We are going to take a
13 break right now, but before we do, I'd like to ask
14 the Secretary if he would like to speak before the
15 break.

16 MR. KEMPTHORNE: I would just say I'm
17 very impressed by the demeanor by which the comments
18 are made. You are covering a wide landscape of
19 views and opinions, and it allows us to get
20 impressions so that we can take those impressions
21 and then, as we travel through this state and 49
22 other states and our territories, and use these as a
23 basis to ultimately come to conclusions on a variety
24 of things.

25 How many more of you are going to be speaking?

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1 May I ask you that? Okay. Because I am
2 scheduled -- I have to keep moving. There are more
3 things that I will be doing today, and a variety of
4 things. I'm going to stay as long as I can. But
5 the other members here of this group will be
6 staying. We are establishing the record. And I
7 listen to you, and I think Dale or Tim or Ron think
8 this, too, you know. When you say you should come
9 see this and you should come see that, no question.
10 It's that finite thing of time. And so the fact
11 that we're here now being able to hear you has been
12 very beneficial, and again, I'm very impressed with
13 how you have conducted this with a great deal of
14 respect.

15 I remember when I was mayor of Boise, there was
16 a public hearing, and it was a room this size that
17 was filled. There were folks that were carrying
18 signs that said "We love our mayor." And at the end
19 of the evening, those where the decision did not go
20 their way because you couldn't do everything for
21 everybody, those signs were torn up and on the
22 floor. But those who tore them up came up
23 afterwards and said, we appreciate the process. At
24 least we had an opportunity to express how we feel.

25 Now, I don't know where all this will go.

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1 Again, this is -- somebody asked me at another
2 setting what's your -- what's the conclusion? I
3 said this is not a day of conclusion. This is a day
4 of perspective. This is a day of learning. So I
5 appreciate you because you are helping me.

6 MR. CASE: We are going to take a
7 very quick break, just ten minutes. And if you
8 could, if you see these gentleman trying to get to
9 that door, just let them get there. And we'll get
10 started back in ten minutes at ten after. Thank
11 you.

12 (A break was taken.)

13 MR. CASE: We are going to go ahead

14 and get started. I believe we left off with 27.

15 MS. HUFFINES: My name is Eleanor
16 Huffines, and I'm the Regional Director of the
17 Wilderness Society.

18 MR. CASE: Could you spell your last
19 name, please?

20 MS. HUFFINES: H-U-F-F-I-N-E-S. I
21 really appreciate the opportunity to be here today.
22 And you have heard from many people this morning
23 from all across the state about increasing concerns
24 about oil and gas development to their subsistence
25 and cultural values. And I can't begin to speak as

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1 eloquently as they have. They live much closer to
2 the land than I do down in Anchorage. But I think
3 it raises a really good opportunity for you all, as
4 part of this new initiative. You have outlined your
5 goals on the website and in this flyer you are
6 passing around.

7 And I think one of the best things you can do
8 in this process is to pause and take a look at the
9 state of Alaska from Bristol Bay up to the Arctic
10 Ocean and look at the scope and scale of energy
11 development proposals across the state. And I
12 emphasize that because it's happening so quickly, so
13 fast that many people in the communities have had
14 to -- public comments, public hearings, literally
15 multiple nights of every week and it's creating
16 incredible stress both in state, as well as in the
17 rest of the country.

18 And many people emphasized it here, but the
19 conservation community and most Alaskans are not
20 opposed to oil and gas development in the state.
21 It's a question of balance and responsible
22 stewardship.

23 And I think you have a real opportunity right
24 now to pause, to bring together the best scientists
25 from around the state across multiple agencies,

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1 tribal governments, local communities, universities
2 and say where are the most biologically important
3 and culturally important areas across the state of
4 Alaska. We're talking about MMS, BLM, Fish &
5 Wildlife Service, the State, DNR. It's incredibly
6 difficult to track. We're really at a crux. We
7 could lose these migratory species from -- whether
8 it's fish or migratory birds. So I really encourage
9 you all to get together, pause the development. We
10 are talking about millions and millions and millions
11 of acres. And really sort of regroup and look for
12 the long-term how we can do this better.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 27, 28,
15 29, 30, 31?

16 MR. KLEIN: My name is Dave Klein.
17 Klein is spelled K-L-E-I-N. And I'm a professor
18 emeritus with the University of Alaska in Fairbanks,

19 but I'm speaking for myself as an individual. I
20 have a long history of association and employment
21 with the Department of the Interior as -- I was
22 leader of the Alaska Cooperative Wildlife Research
23 Unit and then more recently senior scientist with
24 the Cooperative Fisheries Fish & Wildlife Research
25 Unit at the university. I've had a lot of

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1 experience in the Arctic.

2 What I want to talk mostly about today is
3 climate change and the importance of addressing
4 climate change relative to conservation and
5 cooperative conservation in the Arctic and
6 subarctic. Climate change in Alaska is much more
7 obvious than in many other parts of the world. Not
8 all, but many others. And it's obvious that climate
9 change is a global phenomenon that, as former
10 speakers mentioned, the United States is using 25
11 percent of the fossil fuels used in the world, and
12 yet we represent less than five percent of the total
13 population.

14 But in the Arctic, relative to oil development,
15 the oil industry is spending millions trying to
16 understand how climate change may affect their whole
17 operation. And it's critically important to
18 understand the nature of thawing of permafrost, for
19 example, and how you operate roads and pipelines.
20 But there is relatively little effort being directed
21 toward understanding the effects of climate change
22 on the environment, on the fish and wildlife
23 resources, on the plants that support the
24 herbivores, that support the carnivores and the
25 importance of all of this and that supports the

0087

1 people that live in those areas.

2 How can do you an environmental impact
3 assessment on proposed oil or gas development or any
4 kind of development of activities which disturbs the
5 surface resources, the renewable resources, unless
6 you understand the impact of climate change? That's
7 not easy. It's a complex phenomenon going. We are
8 talking about ecosystem changes. And you have to do
9 it by spending more money. And Department of
10 Interior plays an important role in this regard in
11 understanding ecosystem dynamics as influenced by
12 climate change. You have to do that before you can
13 do a valid environmental impact assessment for any
14 proposed development, including oil and gas.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. CASE: Thank you. 32, 33, 34,
17 35. I'm sorry.

18 MR. BARRY: I'm 32.

19 MR. CASE: Okay. Well, you have been
20 up there before and I thought you were just walking
21 by. My apologies.

22 MR. BARRY: My name is Tim Barry,
23 Special Assistant to the Commissioner of the Alaska

24 Department of Fish & Game. I want to just briefly
25 elaborate a little on the comments that were

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1 submitted by my -- B-A-R-R-Y, sorry -- my boss
2 Commissioner Campbell and the Commissioner of the
3 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation,
4 Kurt Fredriksson.

5 We've submitted three case studies for your
6 consideration on the topic of cooperative
7 conservation. One case, the Alaska Marine Ecosystem
8 Forum, serves as a good example of cooperative
9 conservation principles already at work in the
10 state. And we have two other case studies examples,
11 fine situations where we think cooperate consequence
12 concepts could provide a way forward on some
13 problematic issues.

14 The Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum is a joint
15 effort involving four State agencies: The
16 Department of Fish & Game, Environmental
17 Conservation, Natural Resources, and Commerce and
18 Community Economic Development, along with the North
19 Pacific Fisheries Management Council and a whole
20 raft of federal agencies, including EPA, the
21 National Park Service, BLM, Fish & Wildlife Service,
22 and a number of others.

23 The forum meets once or twice a year, at which
24 times member agencies have the opportunity to share
25 priorities, share data, engage in joint problem

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1 solving, and identify opportunities for joint work.
2 The forum does not provide consensus advice or
3 recommend actions. It has no independent
4 jurisdiction or authority. It does not regulate any
5 activity. And no agency is required to obtain
6 approval of other Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum
7 members before acting. It's just getting under way
8 with an initial focus on the Aleutian Islands marine
9 ecosystem, and in the future we are hoping to expand
10 its work into other large marine ecosystems, such as
11 the Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea, and Gulf of Alaska.

12 An example of an area in which we think
13 cooperative conservation could help us through a
14 difficult problem is reform of the Endangered
15 Species Act. The State of Alaska feels ESA needs to
16 be revised for it to become an effective tool. The
17 ESA now stands as a barrier to both federal and
18 state cooperation and effective conservation and
19 restoration and threatened and endangered species
20 and their habitat.

21 The State of Alaska feels ESA needs to be
22 amended to restore the basic principle that states
23 manage fish and wildlife resources. Clear
24 distinction needs to be made between threatened and
25 endangered species, and there is a need to restore

0090

1 the focus to entire biological species and limit the
2 listing of distinct population segments to special

3 circumstances. We feel that the reforms to the
4 ESA -- I know that ESA reform is being discussed in
5 Washington, D.C., and we have lengthy comments which
6 we have submitted to you folks on this subject.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

8 MR. CASE: Thank you. 33.

9 MR. LIEBSCHER: Tom Liebscher,
10 L-I-E-B-S-C-H-E-R. I'm currently on annual leave
11 and represent Boone and Crockett Club. So on behalf
12 of the Boone and Crockett Club, we welcome you all
13 distinguished guests, longtime friend Dale Hall and
14 the Secretary to the great state of Alaska and to
15 Fairbanks. And we would ask that Interior continue
16 to actively engage in dialogue with conservation
17 organizations such as American Wildlife Conservation
18 partners.

19 About a year ago, a new committee was formed in
20 the association of fish and wildlife agencies, the
21 Western Energy and Policy Committee. We believe
22 that committee will be key in helping resolve and
23 come to some agreement on the issues surrounding
24 responsible energy development.

25 Thank you, and welcome.

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1 MR. CASE: Thank you. 34.

2 MR. MAISCH: Yes. Good morning.
3 Actually, I guess it's more than appropriate to say
4 good afternoon. My name is Chris Maisch. It's
5 M-A-I-S-C-H. I'm the Director of the Division of
6 Forestry within the Department of Natural Resources,
7 State of Alaska. And I'd like to start out by
8 saying welcome to the Secretary and to the panel
9 members.

10 The State of Alaska Division of Forestry
11 endorses cooperative conservation and is an active
12 participant on many multi-partner projects. For
13 example, the Division of Forestry collaborates with
14 other federal and local fire suppression agencies,
15 leads public and private efforts to develop
16 community wildfire protection plans, participates in
17 interagency planning for biomass fuel projects for
18 schools and public facilities, chairs public and
19 private advisory committees for cooperative forestry
20 programs, and leads interdisciplinary science and
21 technical committees to address forestry practices
22 and fisheries issues.

23 The State of Alaska benefits from partnerships
24 on many federal programs, including cooperative
25 forestry. The division of forestry is an active

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1 participant in cooperative forestry programs, for
2 forest health protection, urban and community
3 forestry, conservation education, and forest
4 stewardship. Federal funding allows the division
5 staff to provide forest resource assessments,
6 landowner education, forest planning, teacher
7 training, and technical and financial assistance to

8 private citizens, Alaska Native corporations,
9 municipalities and public agencies.

10 The federal agencies have asked how can the
11 federal government work cooperatively with states,
12 communities, businesses and landowners to better
13 protect the environment and promote conservation.

14 We have the following specific recommendations.
15 Continue current federal cooperative conservation
16 programs in the upcoming farm bill. Division
17 supports adequate funding for cost share programs,
18 providing financial assistance for cooperative
19 forestry efforts. These include the forest land
20 enhancement program, known as FLEP; Environmental
21 Quality Incentive Program, called EQUIP; Wildlife
22 Habitat Incentive Program; state fire assistance and
23 volunteer fire assistance.

24 Cost share assistance is necessary for
25 communities and private landowners to provide public

0093

1 benefits of clean water, fish, and fish and wildlife
2 habitat protection, timber products, and lower
3 wildland fire hazards. These programs have strong
4 records of success in achieving these objective.

5 Third point, increase state involvement in the
6 delivery of cooperative programs. For example, the
7 Alaska Division of Forestry is well positioned to
8 act as a technical service provider for the EQUIP
9 and WHIP programs in Alaska.

10 And the final point, improve coordination
11 between the forestry and agricultural sectors.
12 Specifically expand the use of EQUIP and WHIP
13 programs on forest lands. This is particularly
14 important in Alaska where private forest lands cover
15 far greater areas than agricultural crop land. And
16 projects on forest land have the potential for
17 significant contributions to protect water quality
18 and fish habitat.

19 Federal agencies should coordinate landowner
20 assistance programs to match the best sources of
21 technical and financial assistance with the
22 landowner's needs. Ideally, there should be a
23 clearinghouse with one-stop shopping where
24 landowners can learn which programs are best suited
25 to their needs regardless of the management of the

0094

1 program.

2 I'd like to thank you for your time, and I'll
3 submit detailed written comments for your
4 consideration.

5 MR. CASE: Thank you. 35.

6 MR. CARLO: Good evening. Glenn
7 Carlo. I'm with Denakkanaaga. Sorry I don't have a
8 script. But I want to talk to you from the elders.
9 They wanted me to ask you about recruiting and using
10 our biggest resources, which would be the
11 firefighters in the villages. Sometimes this is
12 their only income, and I believe BLM needs to spend

13 more time recruiting and training these people who
14 are raised in the woods and they were born with an
15 axe in their hands. So they are the best people out
16 there.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. CASE: Thank you. 36.

19 MR. VAN DEN BERG: My name is David
20 van den Berg. I'm executive director of the
21 Northern Alaska Environmental Center here in
22 Fairbanks, Alaska. I'll hunch a little bit. I've
23 been a member of the BLM's Resource Advisory Council
24 since 1998 when then Secretary of the Interior
25 Babbitt re-initiated a leasing program for the

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1 National Petroleum Reserve. I do not represent the
2 Resource Advisory Council in my remarks, but I just
3 wanted to let you know I'm the longest serving
4 Resource Advisory Council member in the state of
5 Alaska.

6 I really appreciate you all, the deputation of
7 you all coming to listen. I think it that's a very
8 important first step, and I'm sure that you fully
9 intend to, with the information you have gathered,
10 to go back and reflect that in your policy and
11 practices. And I think that you will be hearing
12 from a lot of Alaskans today who are concerned about
13 the rate and the pace of energy development and
14 resource exploitation and resource plans and
15 management plans. And I think that if we can see
16 changes in policy and changes in practices that
17 reflect that you have heard us, that will be a good
18 thing.

19 I believe you created an expectation today that
20 you will take people's comments to heart, and we are
21 expecting that. So thank you.

22 I just wanted to speak about two things that I
23 believe are happening on BLM lands, and I would
24 describe them as being, as I understand it, as I
25 understand cooperative conservation, two things on

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1 BLM lands that are happening adverse to cooperative
2 conservation.

3 The first one is the decision at Teshekpuk
4 Lake. I don't believe that the Secretary --
5 Secretary of Interior Norton, I don't believe that
6 she exercised her discretion to take all the input
7 that she got to give maximum protection to the
8 petroleum reserve for all of the other resources
9 that the Petroleum Reserve is enabled to protect.
10 It's not too late, though, obviously, and I hope
11 that you will take the remarks of Alaskans about
12 Teshekpuk Lake, the pending lease sale, and hope you
13 will take those and have some changes, some
14 reflections in your policy and practices.

15 The second thing also in BLM lands is also
16 within the National Petroleum Reserve. And it's my
17 feeling that the BLM in Alaska is not taking a

18 tangible leadership role in protecting the caribou
19 calving grounds of the Western Arctic caribou herd.
20 And finally, I would like to leave with just a
21 question to you. And it's -- I believe that we all
22 know that Alaska is more or less at the ends of the
23 earth, and I think we need to reckon with what it
24 means to be producing from this last inexhaustible
25 storehouse.

0097

1 Thank you very much.

2 MR. CASE: Thank you. 37.

3 MR. JUSTICE: Hello. My name is Stan
4 Justice, J-U-S-T-I-C-E. And I'm from Fairbanks,
5 Alaska. And I'm speaking just for myself, but I'm a
6 long-time board member of the Northern Alaska
7 Environmental Center. Also I want to support what
8 other people have said about not drilling all these
9 remote places.

10 I've spent time the last two summers walking
11 across the Alaska Wildlife Refuge, and it truly is a
12 unique place that should be protected and not
13 drilled. If you compare the beauty of the coastal
14 plain to the east with what has happened to the west
15 with pipeline development -- Prudhoe Bay will never
16 be the same, even once all the oil is gone. And to
17 think that we can put that land back together and it
18 will -- it will never fully recover.

19 We were at a place at Camden Bay where we used
20 to have a -- listening to the Russians during the
21 Cold War era, there was a DEW line station there,
22 and they have cleaned it up, but you can still see
23 visible evidence. They didn't remove the slabs, the
24 concrete slabs where they had had a runway. The
25 ocean had taken all the cables and the runway lights

0098

1 and just churned them into a mess and filled with
2 gravel. There is just still evidence there. And I
3 think Prudhoe Bay will continue to have signs of it
4 long after the oil is gone. So we need to not go
5 into some of those places.

6 The other issue I wanted to mention is, as a
7 species, we have become very creative about
8 traveling on these remote areas in Alaska. We get
9 bigger four-wheelers, bigger snowmachines, and at
10 some point we need to kind of draw a line. I don't
11 own a snowmachine myself, but as land managers, we
12 have to -- have to get ahead of this here because
13 the four-wheelers are causing more and more trails
14 across the land and more and more damage when they
15 go around swamps, and the snowmachines can just go
16 everywhere now.

17 An example of this, the East Alaska Plan that's
18 recently been completed by BLM set aside some areas
19 for quiet recreation, but now it's going to come
20 time to implement that. The Delta Mountains were
21 set aside as an area for quiet recreation with no
22 snowmachines, but now it's going to be time to

23 implement that. And cooperative conservation,
24 working with the snow travelers and the snowmachine
25 clubs and the four-wheelers clubs and the Alaska

0099

1 alpine clubs, to get all those stakeholders together
2 and try and figure out a way to implement the East
3 Alaska Plan in regards to quiet recreation.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. CASE: Thank you. 38, 39, 40.

6 MS. KEHRHAHN-STARK: My name is Mary
7 Kehrhaahn-Stark, and I'm a 20-year resident of
8 Alaska. I'm here on behalf of my family and my
9 fellow brothers and sisters of this fine country.

10 If the goal of this exchange is to enhance
11 wildlife habitat, offer species protection, and
12 ultimately align the interaction between citizens
13 and the ownership of the land, then we need to
14 cancel the development or the Teshekpuk lease sale
15 and the development of ANWR.

16 These areas are precious grounds for a vast
17 number of birds and animals, as you have heard.
18 There are other places that can offer what the oil
19 industry desires. And with the oil industry in
20 mind, gentlemen, and Secretary Kempthorne, lies and
21 brash mistakes have been made in taking care of
22 their equipment leading to gross environmental
23 degradation, and I think we need to remind ourselves
24 of this. This is a reality that we live with when
25 we are considering the development of these areas.

0100

1 We need to remember strongly the present
2 environmental changes created by the petroleum
3 development and the industry in itself and the
4 legacy that it's going to leave our children and our
5 future.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. CASE: Thank you. Could you
8 spell your name?

9 MS. KEHRHAHN-STARK:
10 K-E-H-R-H-A-H-N-STARK.

11 MR. CASE: 41? 40? Okay.

12 MR. WATERHOUSE: My name is John
13 Waterhouse, W-A-T-E-R-H-O-U-S-E, and I'm from the
14 Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council. The
15 watershed council came together in 1997. 63 tribes
16 signed an accord to clean up and protect the Yukon
17 River watershed. Being a little over 2,000 miles
18 long, it's the longest inland run of salmon in the
19 entire world. So it's a pretty big job, you can
20 imagine.

21 I see the questions here. How can we help?
22 How can the federal government enhance cooperation?
23 How can we work with tribes? Not to take up too
24 much time, I think it would take forever to explain
25 all that. But what I would say, in the spirit of

0101

1 cooperative conservation, is please contact us. I'm

2 going to leave you with our -- it's a 42-minute
3 documentary of the watershed council and my contact
4 information. And I think we can help you with each
5 one of these questions.

6 So I'll leave it at that.

7 MR. CASE: Okay. Thank you. 41?
8 42?

9 MS. MILLER: Hello. My name is
10 Pamela A. Miller. I'm from Fairbanks, Alaska. I'm
11 representing the Northern Alaska Environmental
12 Center. I'm going to focus a little more deeply
13 into some of the arctic issues that are within the
14 purview of this meeting today.

15 Thank you, Secretary Kempthorne, for inviting
16 us. Dale Hall I know from my old days at the Fish &
17 Wildlife Service as a biologist, Secretary from
18 NOAA, and EPA. We are pleased you are here in
19 Fairbanks.

20 This morning I woke up hearing the cranes
21 flying across the Tanana Valley. They connect us to
22 the arctic. Hundreds of thousands come through our
23 community every fall. They connect us to the Lower
24 48. Where is their home? They nest in the arctic,
25 just like the geese that come through Fairbanks and

0102

1 the brant that go down the West Coast of the United
2 States as far as Mexico. They are at great risk
3 with the proposed lease sale at Teshekpuk Lake.
4 That lease sale should be canceled.

5 The recent information with the corrosion, the
6 spills, the pervasiveness of the betrayal of how the
7 industry is failing to do its job is just a glimpse
8 of what we know about the impacts of oil and gas
9 development. I've worked in this area for a long
10 time. Finally the rest of the country is getting a
11 little bit of a piece of this information. It
12 doesn't make sense to go forward with oil and gas
13 lease sales in our most prized and critical wildlife
14 habitats like Teshekpuk Lake or to even consider
15 drilling our last great wilderness of the Arctic
16 National Wildlife Refuge. You have heard many
17 reasons why it should be protected.

18 We need to invest, as Americans who have great
19 ingenuity, in our renewable energy resources and
20 efficiency. These do not create pollution from
21 spills. They will help us reduce global warming.

22 I will mention one other fact. I have a map
23 back there which I forgot bring up, but with respect
24 to Teshekpuk Lake, pipelines, and the myth that oil
25 and gas development is very small in a compact area,

0103

1 under the proposed regulations of the Bureau of Land
2 Management, there can be a sprawling complex
3 throughout the goose molting area with pipelines in
4 the most sensitive habitats. They have disregarded
5 the fact that you would have aircraft monitoring
6 them. And you --

7 There is a need for the transportation
8 corridors from the offshore through this critical
9 area with roads or pipelines. And this also was an
10 issue with the 2,000 acres in the Arctic National
11 Wildlife Refuge that you hear so much about.
12 There's really 1.5 million acres at stake in the
13 coastal plain.

14 Please reconsider, urge all your agencies to
15 tell the Interior Secretary to withdraw his plans
16 for the Teshekpuk lease sale. Thank you.

17 MR. CASE: Thank you. 43.

18 MS. SCHARFENBERG: My name is Joni
19 Scharfenberg, S-C-H-A-R-F-E-N-B-E-R-G. I'm here as
20 one person, but representing several groups and
21 organizations, so it's sort of the epitome of
22 cooperative conservation.

23 First of all, I'm a farmer, private landowner,
24 and I represent the agricultural community and the
25 local farmers' markets. And we are always needing

0104

1 conservation resources to help in providing foods
2 and fiber to our community.

3 I also am a State coordinator of Project WET,
4 which is an international water education
5 organization. And I thank NOAA for including Alaska
6 in a recent education workshop about coral reefs,
7 especially with what you just mentioned about the
8 big area being reserved here in Alaska.

9 I work for the Fairbanks Soil and Water
10 Conservation District, which is one of 12
11 conservation districts across the state that are
12 member districts of the Alaska Association of
13 Conservation Districts. Conservation districts work
14 with private landowners in the development of their
15 land, encouraging, assisting, educating them in the
16 wise use of natural resources on their land, which
17 is our definition of conservation. We have --

18 I think in this capacity I'm able to address
19 all the issues on this card by asking the federal
20 government to continue to work with and assist in
21 funding soil and water districts in Alaska and the
22 nation. Since the Dust Bowl, conservation districts
23 nationwide have worked at the grass roots level in
24 cooperative natural resource conservation. In fact,
25 the members or the people we work with are called

0105

1 cooperators.

2 Districts also work as liaisons between
3 government agencies and private landowners, and in
4 the Fairbanks District we have great partnerships
5 with NRCS, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and BLM in
6 agriculture, invasive weeds, watershed, fish
7 passage, and other projects. We need these
8 agencies' continued support in these conservation
9 efforts.

10 Please continue the partner programs in all of
11 these areas. But in doing so, remember that Alaska

12 is different than the rest of the nation. As the
13 Secretary mentioned, we are rugged individuals, and
14 we are so because of the very place we live.
15 Because of the climate, geographic, and
16 transportation challenges of the state, the federal
17 programs that work in the rest of the country don't
18 always work as easily here in Alaska. And the
19 implementation of them is much more expensive.

20 So I would also ask that you would be more
21 flexible in applying these programs here in Alaska
22 for our needs and realize that funding dollars need
23 to be higher to meet these needs.

24 Finally, I would also encourage the federal
25 government to prioritize natural resource education

0106

1 for all ages. Like the sixth graders here this
2 morning, we need to educate our national resource
3 leaders of tomorrow today, or there will be no one
4 to testify at future listening sessions.

5 MR. CASE: Thank you. 44? 45?

6 DR. WERNHAM: Good afternoon. My
7 name is Aaron Wernham. I'm a physician with the
8 Alaska Intertribal Council. My name is spelled
9 W-E-R-N-H-A-M.

10 Thanks for the opportunity to talk to you for a
11 couple of minutes here. We are here primarily to
12 reiterate the multiple requests you have heard today
13 to request the Teshekpuk Lake special area from the
14 lease -- to withdraw that from the leasing proposal.
15 As a physician, it's a singularly disturbing
16 realization that in the United States large scale
17 industrial projects are not routinely and
18 systematically evaluated as to their human health
19 impacts. The environmental impact statement for
20 this project, as for all the prior industrial
21 development on the North Slope, has very, very
22 little to say about human health.

23 There is an existing process which has been
24 developed in Canada and the U.K. and is being
25 advocated for here in the United States called

0107

1 health impact assessment. Our organization is
2 interested in seeing this process implemented on the
3 North Slope.

4 As you are undoubtedly aware, the federally
5 mandated Natural Research Council review of the
6 cumulative impacts of oil development criticized the
7 current North Slope planning process for its lack of
8 attention to human health. Unfortunately, I can't
9 honestly say that I see any change in the attention
10 given to human health in the current commanded
11 integrated activity planned for the northeast NPRA.

12 The reason we have singled out Teshekpuk Lake
13 for consideration of human health impacts -- and I
14 have submitted detailed comments on potential human
15 health impacts in this region to Secretary
16 Kempthorne -- is because of the unique and special

17 and close ties of the people who inhabit that region
18 to the land in the Teshekpuk Lake area. Teshekpuk
19 Lake is not only an important subsistence area; it
20 is where many of the subsistence-based resources
21 from -- for the entire region flow from. Impacts to
22 resources there will impact many communities around
23 the North Slope.

24 Subsistence is an integral and essential part
25 of human health on the North Slope. From impacts of
0108

1 subsistence, you can extrapolate very easily impacts
2 on the rate of diabetes, impacts on the rate of
3 accidents as people have to go farther through more
4 difficult conditions to find game, impacts on social
5 and psychological dysfunction, which are already
6 plaguing these communities. As a parenthetical
7 note, there is substantial evidence that Nuiqsut has
8 been disproportionately impacted by social and
9 psychological problems. There is a report I would
10 refer you to by the Alaska Criminal Justice Council
11 which documents markedly increased arrest rates and
12 reports of harm to social services in that community
13 as compared with other communities on the North
14 Slope. Of note, that is not quoted in the
15 environmental impact statement. I think we will
16 leave it there.

17 There is a lot more to say about health
18 impacts, and I would just encourage every federal
19 agency to strongly support the current Senate bill,
20 the Healthy Places Bill sponsored by Barack O'Bama,
21 which would enact rules similar to NEPA for human
22 health. I can't see any ethical justification for
23 why human health is not more attended to in this
24 process.

25 MR. CASE: Thank you. 46. 47.

0109

1 MR. BANERJEE: Greetings to you all.
2 My name is Subhankar Banerjee. It's a difficult
3 name to spell, so I'll present a book to Secretary
4 Kempthorne.

5 I am not a resident of Alaska. I am a visitor.
6 I make my home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, but I have
7 made a deep connection to Alaska since 2001. I'll
8 make my comments in two special places: Arctic
9 National Wildlife Refuge and Teshekpuk Lake. Since
10 2001 I have been photographing extensively in
11 Alaska's North Slope, Arctic National Wildlife
12 Refuge primarily, and have been educating American
13 person public across the country, and I would
14 welcome you and really urge, if you have fifteen
15 minutes to spare, my exhibition is right here in
16 Fairbanks right now at the Museum of the North,
17 University of Alaska.

18 That exhibit has traveled in over 25 cities and
19 has been visited by about 10,000,000 people in
20 Washington, D.C. at the Smithsonian; in New York,
21 American Museum of Natural History; in Chicago,

22 Field Museum; Harvard Museum of Natural History.
23 And that's what I have been doing, educating the
24 public about this special place we call the Arctic
25 National Wildlife Refuge. It is truly a remarkable

0110

1 place.

2 I come from India. That's where I grew up.
3 And I was truly moved. It changed my life, that
4 visitation. I traveled with my friend and guide who
5 is sitting over there. And earlier he made his
6 comments, Robert Thompson from Kaktovik, 4,000
7 miles. And not just in summer months, in winter
8 months. He extensively traveled all seasons. And I
9 spent time with my friends, Luci Beach is there,
10 Sarah James, who have lived in the Gwich'in country.

11 Tomorrow I'll leave for Old Crow, a Gwich'in
12 village in the Yukon of the Canadian Arctic. We
13 talked about the caribou migration, the bird
14 migration. Many people have commented on that.
15 Earlier this year I was in Point Lay, an Inupiaq
16 village just north of where Earl Kingik comes from
17 in Point Lay. He's from Point Hope. And people
18 were waiting for the beluga hunt.

19 And we saw several nests, probably about six
20 pairs of nests of a tiny songbird species called
21 yellow wagtail. And I told the North Slope Borough
22 biologist, Robert Sudan (ph), do you know that the
23 wagtails, some of them come from India to the
24 Arctic. And yellow wagtails also nest in the Arctic
25 Refuge.

0111

1 Then I went to the calving ground of the -- of
2 the Western Arctic caribou herd and onto Teshekpuk
3 Lake. And Teshekpuk Lake, before going there as an
4 artist -- I'll finish up very quickly -- I thought
5 how visually, how interesting could it be? A whole
6 lot of lakes on a flat tundra, and I was broken
7 away. Two weeks ago a portfolio of my prints was
8 presented to Michael Bogert, counsel to Secretary
9 Kempthorne. He loved the images so much, he kept
10 the portfolio and promised that he would be sharing
11 with Secretary Kempthorne.

12 We urge Secretary Kempthorne to really
13 reconsider the Teshekpuk lease sale, the area that
14 we should not lose to development.

15 MR. CASE: If you could come up and
16 give her your name, show the book to Mary. Thank
17 you. 48? No. 48? 49? 50? 51?

18 MR. KELLER: Good afternoon. Yeah.
19 My name is Andy Keller, and I live in Fairbanks, and
20 I wanted to -- it's K-E-L-L-E-R. And I speak for
21 myself and also for my wife. And I want to welcome
22 you to Fairbanks and encourage you, as others have
23 mentioned, to stop by and see the sandhill cranes.

24 My wife speaks six languages and is truly an
25 international person. And I want to speak for the

0112

1 international community that are really not here to
2 represent themselves. And for my wife, I want to
3 say enchantT, which is French for welcome, nice to
4 meet you.

5 I've had the privilege of working for three DOI
6 agencies: The National Park Service, the BLM, and
7 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, in addition to the
8 guiding that I currently do in Arctic Alaska. And
9 America is still emerging from its frontier past.

10 In fact, the frontier is so close that we can almost
11 hear the rumble of wagon trains heading west across
12 the prairies. Midwestern October skies full of
13 migrating waterfowl trigger memories of a time when
14 the land was full of bison and the expansive
15 prairies extended in all directions.

16 Symbols of the frontier fill the bars, barns,
17 restaurants and homes of this country. From old
18 wagon wheels in suburban Washington, D.C. yards to
19 plows in the Holiday Inn in Kearney, Nebraska, the
20 symbols are everywhere. American western movies and
21 the frontier that they represent are a global icon.

22 Alaska sets the standards for wildlife and
23 wilderness throughout the country and globally. The
24 beauty that people enjoy and inspiration that they
25 draw from Alaska exists primarily on its public

0113

1 federal lands. Here we still have the opportunity
2 to experience free-roaming caribou herds and
3 unspoiled ecosystems.

4 In order to maintain the wild character of
5 Alaska and its biological diversity, I recommend
6 these actions: One, from the Yukon boundary to the
7 Chukchi Sea, there are only 25 miles of that coast
8 within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that are
9 currently in the National Wilderness Preservation
10 System. So Mr. Secretary, please show me where the
11 Administration plans to protect any of the acres. I
12 don't see any acreage north of the Brooks Range,
13 save for that area from the Aichilik River east that
14 is being proposed for protection. So I would pose a
15 question of: Where is the balance in that?

16 And also to provide some -- so to provide that
17 balance, I recommend adding the entire coastal plain
18 of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge in the National
19 Wilderness Preservation System, to cancel the leases
20 at Teshekpuk Lake and to conduct a feasibility study
21 of establishing a conservation area there on the
22 Colville River and on the Utukok highlands to
23 establish some type of protective status.

24 A former governor, and I believe somebody else
25 mentioned Secretary Andrus from the home state of

0114

1 Idaho, was instrumental in passing ANILCA, the
2 Alaska National [sic] Interest Lands Conservation
3 Act. And it's the responsibility of the Secretary
4 now to fully ensure that Americans have a lasting
5 frontier instead of looking back in time at the last

6 frontier.

7 And also one other point, the Land and Water
8 Conservation Fund was established to provide funds
9 to purchase public lands for future generations.

10 Thanks for the opportunity to comment today.

11 MR. CASE: Thanks. 52? 53? 54?
12 55? 56? 57? 58? 59?

13 MR. KROTO: Good afternoon. I'm Ted
14 Kroto, K-R-O-T-O. I represent Tyonek Native
15 Corporation, and I'd like to speak about the USCA
16 NRCS program in Alaska. We currently have an
17 agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
18 We formed the first tribal conservation district in
19 the state. We have an MOU with the Department of
20 Fish & Game to do predator control on our lands and
21 also to enhance our habitat enhancement program. We
22 have a current contract with NRCS to do habitat
23 enhancement on our lands on the Cook Inlet side, and
24 we are no stranger to oil and gas development. We
25 have had oil and gas development on our lands and

0115

1 across from our lands since the late '50s. And next
2 year we are looking at the opening of a coal field,
3 the largest coal field in North America close to a
4 deep water port.

5 So you can understand the need for us to look
6 at conservation and enhancement of our habitat, and
7 we have a wonderful program going with NRCS and the
8 Department of Agriculture. The problem we are
9 running into is the lack of funding for the state of
10 Alaska in these programs.

11 Right now we qualify under some of the programs
12 through EQUIP and a majority of the programs through
13 the WHIP program. The problem we are having with
14 the EQUIP program is that is a majority of the
15 funding that the farmers and ranchers get their
16 funding from, and we are having to fund -- we are
17 having to compete with the farmers and ranchers for
18 the funding that they are used to getting, and we
19 really don't want to be a competitor to them. We
20 believe that, you know, the 44,000,000 acres of land
21 that the Natives have entitlement to in the state of
22 Alaska as a private landowner should qualify them
23 for additional funding either through the WHIP
24 program or some of the EQUIP programs.

25 And we have done some analyses of the funding
0116

1 throughout the Lower 48, and we are looking at an
2 average of \$2,600 per acre funded through NRCS to
3 private lands wildlife management. Alaska Native
4 funds for last year received \$27 per acre. We
5 believe that Department of Interior should look with
6 the Department of Agriculture for increasing the
7 funding for NRCS Alaska.

8 MR. CASE: Thank you. No. 60? 61?
9 62? 63?

10 MS. STARK: Hi. I'm Catlianne (ph)

11 Stark, S-T-A-R-K. I don't know if you know how to
12 spell my first name or not. I'm 16. I go to West
13 Valley High School here in Fairbanks, and I just
14 learned about talking here to you guys a few days
15 ago, and I have been really excited about it. I'm
16 leaving school for lunch to come talk to you guys.

17 So my generation needs to be listened to. My
18 generation seems to be kind of underrepresented
19 here, except for the sixth graders earlier. This is
20 what I have to say.

21 Drilling in ANWR is a bad idea. BP, with their
22 past and recent problems with pollution, many youth
23 and adults are thinking why? The facts are before
24 you. Spills, leaks, denied problems that have later
25 become big problems. Your generation may not have

0117

1 to deal with these is if they drill in ANWR, but my
2 generation will. So if there is big problems, you
3 are going to be elsewhere, somewhere else, and we
4 are going to be down here saying why did they make
5 these decisions if there is such a big problem that
6 could happen? Why deal with these problems at all?
7 You can totally avoid this by having renewable
8 energy, which leaves little to no footprint on the
9 earth without compromising animals' ways of life and
10 lives.

11 Renewable energy isn't something that's just in
12 the background anymore. The clear and present
13 danger of pollution by BP and other oil companies
14 can be avoided by using renewable energy. With
15 using it, we as guests on the planet here can leave
16 a small footprint, as opposed to what we have been
17 doing earlier.

18 My generation worries about the choices that
19 you make now. In the last few years I have traveled
20 around this beautiful state and seen landscapes in
21 Seward, Palmer, Gustavus, and here in Fairbanks.
22 One of the places I really want to visit would be
23 ANWR, but if something happens there and it's not
24 the way it is now and all the beautiful photographs
25 that were taken by the speaker just now, what if we

0118

1 can only see it in photographs because it's not like
2 that anymore if something happens? I don't want to
3 risk that for myself, your children, my children,
4 and generations after that. I want them to be able
5 to see that and see what you have protected.

6 If this board and others make poor choices, my
7 generation and the future generations will have to
8 deal with it.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. CASE: Thank you. 64? 65? Is
11 there -- I think we have gotten all the numbers. Is
12 there anybody that wants to speak that has not had a
13 chance? Okay. Come on up. I thought there were 65
14 passed out, but go ahead.

15 MR. BISHOP: Well, this says 82. So

16 I was wondering how long you were going to stay.

17 MR. CASE: We are going to stay
18 until the end.

19 MR. BISHOP: Thank you very much. My
20 name is Dick Bishop. I live in Fairbanks. I would
21 like to comment a little bit on ANILCA in general.
22 I've been involved with ANILCA issues for over 30
23 years as an individual, as a state game biologist,
24 as rural subsistence user, an urban subsistence
25 user, a so-called sport hunter, which is a rare

0119

1 commodity, actually, in Alaska because most people
2 hunt for food.

3 I want to recommend to the Secretary and to
4 whoever else is involved a book. I'd be happy to
5 leave this book for you as a gift for your
6 enlightenment. It's called A Land Gone Lonesome.
7 It's by a local author who took a riverboat trip --
8 actually a canoe trip in the Yukon-Charley Preserve.

9 And what the book points out, in short, is the
10 failure of the National Park Service to fulfill its
11 obligations under ANILCA to provide the
12 opportunities for Alaskans to continue their ways of
13 life as ANILCA attempted to provide. In particular,
14 he emphasizes the pressure that exists, both
15 officially, unofficially, that tends to dissuade and
16 discourage people in that area attempting to pursue
17 a traditional subsistence lifestyle.

18 This is not a situation that's unique to the
19 Yukon-Charley Preserve, and it's not unique to the
20 subsistence issue. The administration of ANILCA,
21 particularly with respect to opportunities that were
22 provided in the law for Alaskans to hunt, fish,
23 trap, have access in the state by land and water has
24 routinely been criticized by environmental groups,
25 has routinely been put on the back burner by

0120

1 Interior Department agencies, and in general there
2 doesn't seem to be, after 26 years, any greater
3 understanding of the few privileges that were
4 incorporated as compromises in ANILCA. To me it
5 seems it's going the opposite direction.

6 In particular I recently, within the last year,
7 listened to comments about the Denali Park
8 backcountry plan, and it was clear that the people
9 working for the Park Service really had very little
10 understanding or appreciation of the provisions that
11 were included in the enlargement of Denali National
12 Park and inclusion of a substantial piece of it as
13 preserve. And that was oriented to providing for
14 ongoing uses that did not otherwise qualify as
15 subsistence. It's really very discouraging for
16 Alaskans.

17 The Federal Subsistence Board, which
18 fortunately the Secretary has just revamped a bit,
19 is a standing joke in terms of fairness, in terms of
20 reasonableness, in considering allocation of

21 resource use opportunities among Alaskans.

22 So I am very pleased that Secretary Kempthorne
23 is there. I think he's got a tough job. I would
24 say that Marcia Blaszak, the regional director of
25 the National Park Service, has been working to

0121

1 improve matters with regard to public access and
2 related considerations, but there is a long ways to
3 go. It's really -- I think it's really kind of gone
4 downhill.

5 Thank you.

6 Would you like the book?

7 MR. CASE: I'll take it and read it
8 if you're offering it to me, but if you want me to
9 make sure it gets to the Secretary of Interior, I'll
10 do that. Note that I will give that to the
11 Secretary of Interior on the record. Yes.

12 Is there anyone else that has not had a chance
13 to speak that would like to? Anybody else?

14 MS. HEAD: My name is Melissa Head,
15 H-E-A-D. And I do appreciate the effort of all of
16 you being able to come up here to Fairbanks to an
17 area that's so far away. I made the journey about a
18 year ago this week for a job at the BLM through the
19 Environmental Careers Organization, and it's been an
20 amazing experience. And I just want to say that I
21 think it's unfortunate that the Secretary wasn't
22 able to stay and listen to all these extra comments
23 that were made because I think, especially getting
24 an opinion from the younger generation and
25 everything, he really did miss out on what's been

0122

1 said.

2 Thanks.

3 MR. CASE: Thank you. Is there
4 anyone else that has not had a chance to speak that
5 would like to? If not, before I turn it over to the
6 panelists for any final comments they might have,
7 I'd like to again thank you for taking the time to
8 be here, thank Mary, our court reporter, for being
9 so diligent through this, L'Rona and Lizanne for the
10 sign interpretation, and especially Jewell and Sue
11 from the Fish & Wildlife Service who took care of
12 all the logistics of putting this together. There's
13 a lot of effort involved in it, and appreciate their
14 help.

15 With that I'll just ask Dale or Tim or Ron if
16 there is anything further you would like to add.

17 MR. KEENEY: I'd just like to say a
18 few things just to follow up on what the Secretary
19 was saying before. First of all, this was a great
20 opportunity to hear your thoughtful comments, and I
21 very much appreciate it, as I'm sure members of the
22 panel do, as well. And it was great to hear about
23 some of these natural resources and the great wealth
24 of Alaska and how it relates to the nation as a
25 whole.

0123

1 As we know, natural resources in themselves are
2 precious and can be destroyed. We have heard a lot
3 today about man's capacity to destroy the
4 environment is quite endless. And I had an
5 opportunity to witness that myself last week when I
6 was commissioning a NOAA research vessel in
7 Massachusetts. We named the vessel after the auk,
8 the great auk, which went extinct in 1846. And it
9 was a situation where there were so many of these
10 birds around that people thought that the
11 populations were endless and man's impact was
12 minuscule, so they went around beating these birds
13 to death with clubs. They couldn't fly. They had
14 little tiny wings. Big bird, two, three feet long.
15 And just reminded me, as many of the comments
16 today I've heard about how man's influence needs to
17 be tempered, and there needs to be some balance.
18 And I personally will certainly reflect on
19 these comments today and try to consider them with
20 regards to future policies and practices that I
21 undertake. And want to thank you all very much for
22 your involvement and staying for the whole time.
23 And it's very meaningful to me. Thank you.

24 MR. HALL: I'd also like to add my
25 appreciation for those of you that stuck it to the

0124

1 end because this is really important to us. It
2 really isn't just an exercise. This was a conscious
3 decision that we made among the agencies and the
4 departments that it was time to get out, that the
5 old paradigm of how business was being done just
6 simply wasn't getting it done.
7 I had the privilege of spending a temporary
8 detail here in Alaska right here in Fairbanks in
9 1986. I ran the ecological services office of the
10 Fish & Wildlife Service that summer. The previous
11 supervisor had dogsledded up to Selawik and had to
12 take a new job up near Nome. And I came up from
13 Texas from that office. And I really gained an
14 appreciation up here for a different perspective.
15 And I think it's one that's lost sometimes.

16 We will have 24 of these sessions.
17 Twenty-three of them will be in different parts of
18 the country. They are talking about how to really
19 work in partnership to restore and reclaim what we
20 have lost. I think it was real important for the
21 Secretary to get a better feel for the challenge in
22 Alaska is not to lose it. And that -- I can tell
23 you he is very sincere about that. And we will be
24 talking. He didn't miss any of your comments
25 because I'll be with him the next three days, and I

0125

1 assure you we will be talking about things that came
2 up during this discussion and the challenges and the
3 questions that are there trying to figure out, at
4 least from the Fish & Wildlife Services perspective,

5 any advice I can give him on how to address those.
6 And the third thing is it's not lost on me.
7 It's not lost on the Secretary. I don't think it's
8 lost on anybody. That we are not here to take care
9 of this generation. We are here to take care of not
10 even your generation. We are here to take care of
11 your grandchildren and their grandchildren. And
12 that's what it's really all about. If we are to
13 have a true system of natural resources that the
14 Creator gave us, that is not so defaced that we
15 can't recognize it anymore, our challenge is to make
16 sure that it is better than was handed to us, and
17 each generation has that same challenge.

18 So that's the direction we are trying to go,
19 and getting out and talking to you is a truly honest
20 effort to try and say to you we don't have all the
21 answers and we are hoping you can help. And I
22 believe you all have.

23 So thanks a lot.

24 MR. KREIZENBECK: Well, as a former
25 Fairbanks resident and a graduate of the University

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1 of Alaska Fairbanks, I'm always pleased to come back
2 here. And I'm really proud of all of you for the
3 organization and the directness of your comments.
4 This is only my second one of these I've
5 participated in. In the first listening session in
6 Spokane with the Secretary where we had 183
7 commenters, I want to say that the comments here
8 were very well organized and succinct. And that's
9 appreciated. And also it makes easier for Mary and
10 the others and Dave who are going to have to distill
11 these into some sort of action.

12 So thank you very much for your consideration.

13 MR. CASE: Thank you, everybody. And
14 we will close the session down, then. Thank you.

15 (Proceedings adjourned at 1:15 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

1 I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in
2 and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify:
3 That the foregoing proceedings were taken
4 before me at the time and place herein set forth;
5 that the proceedings were reported stenographically
6 by me and later transcribed under my direction by
7 computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true
8 record of the proceedings taken at that time; and
9

10 that I am not a party to nor have I any interest in
11 the outcome of the action herein contained.

12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
13 subscribed my hand and affixed my seal this _____
14 day of _____ 2006.

15
16

17 _____
MARY A. VAVRIK,
Registered Merit Reporter
Notary Public for Alaska

18

19 My Commission Expires: November 5, 2008

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